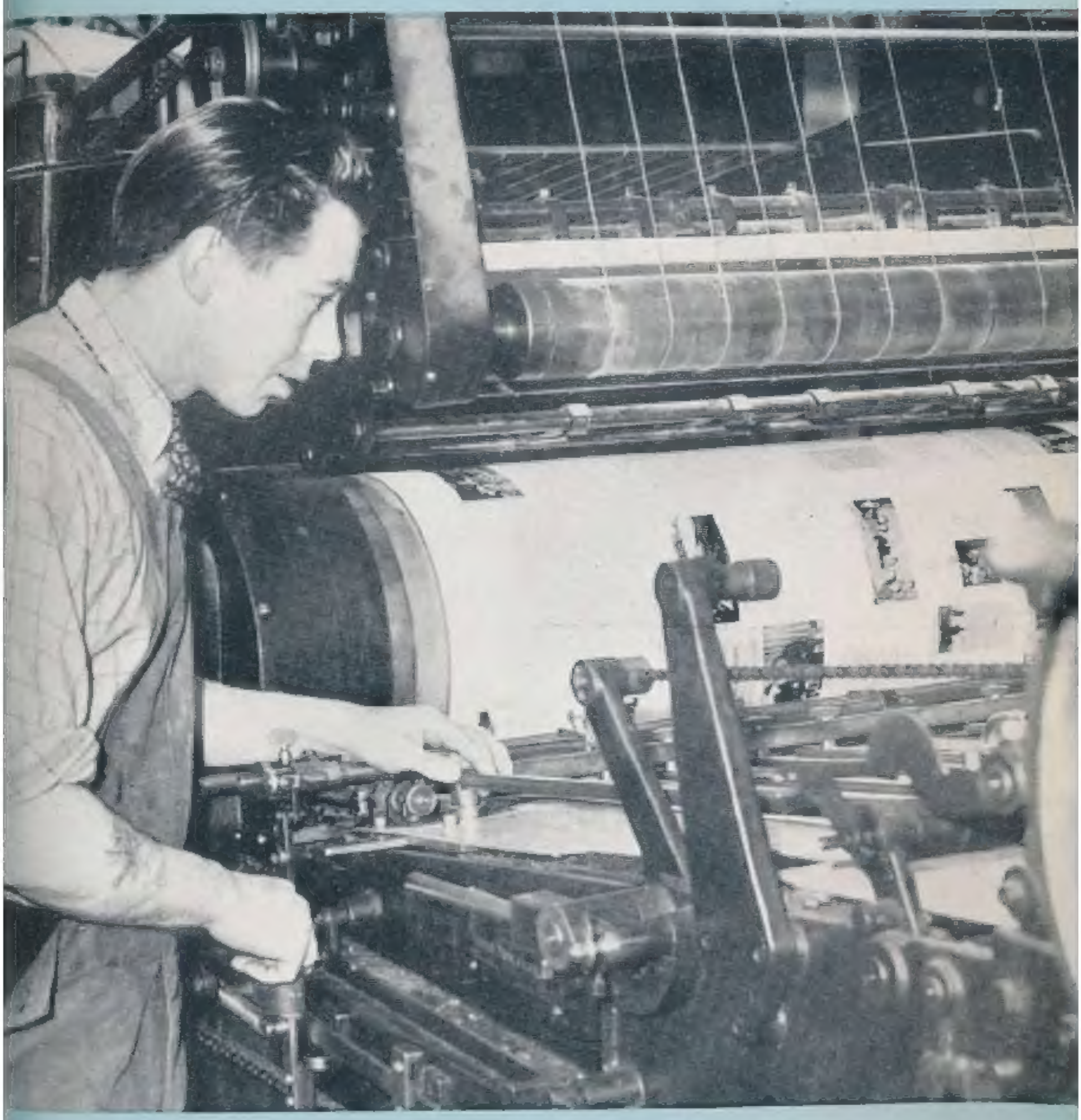
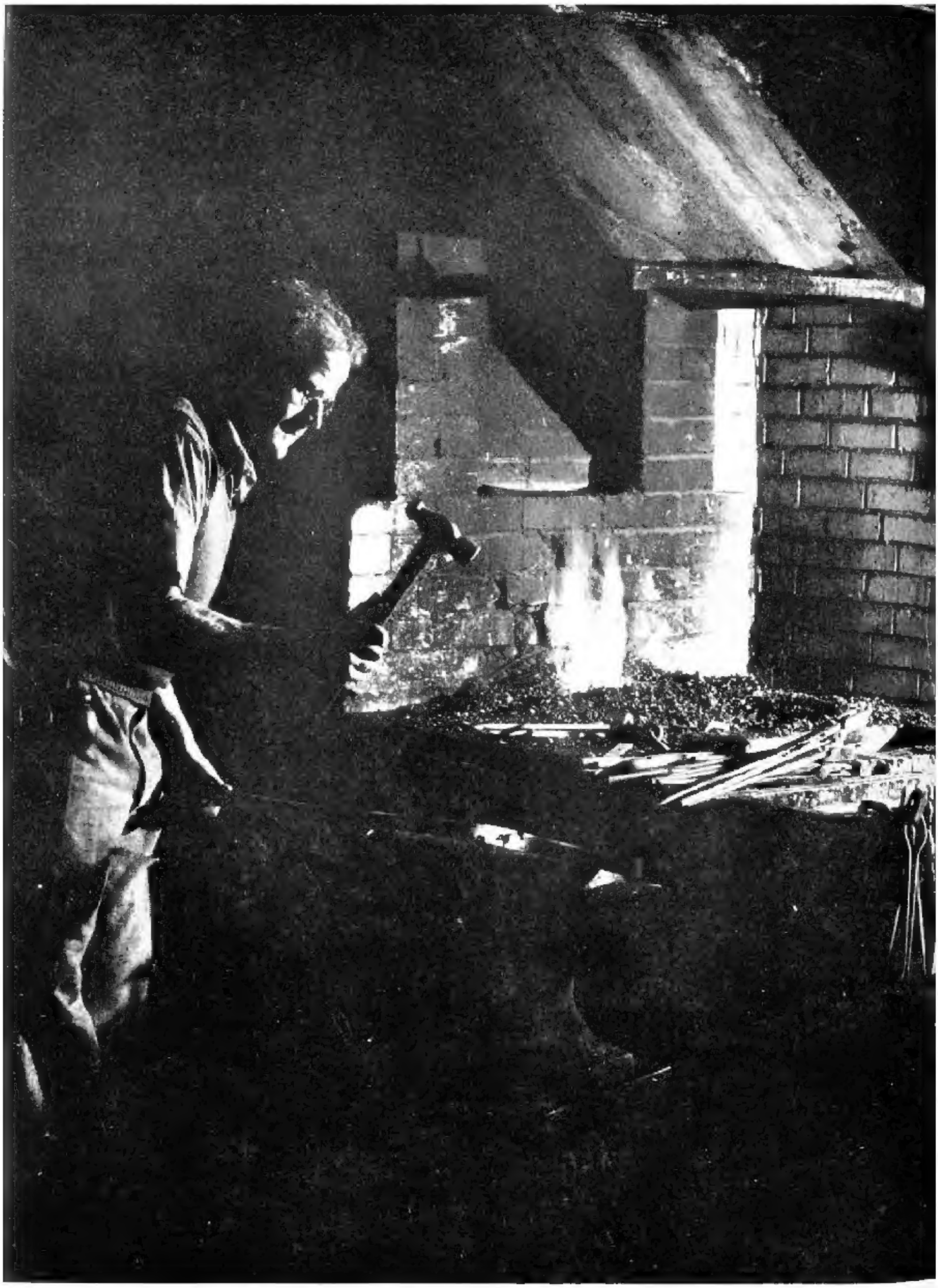
# THE *Marconi* COMPANIES
## AND THEIR PEOPLE



VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 11 • JUNE 1951 • THREEPENCE



CRAFTSMANSHIP. *The blacksmith's craft is still essential to the maintenance of agricultural implements*

# THE MARCONI COMPANIES AND THEIR PEOPLE

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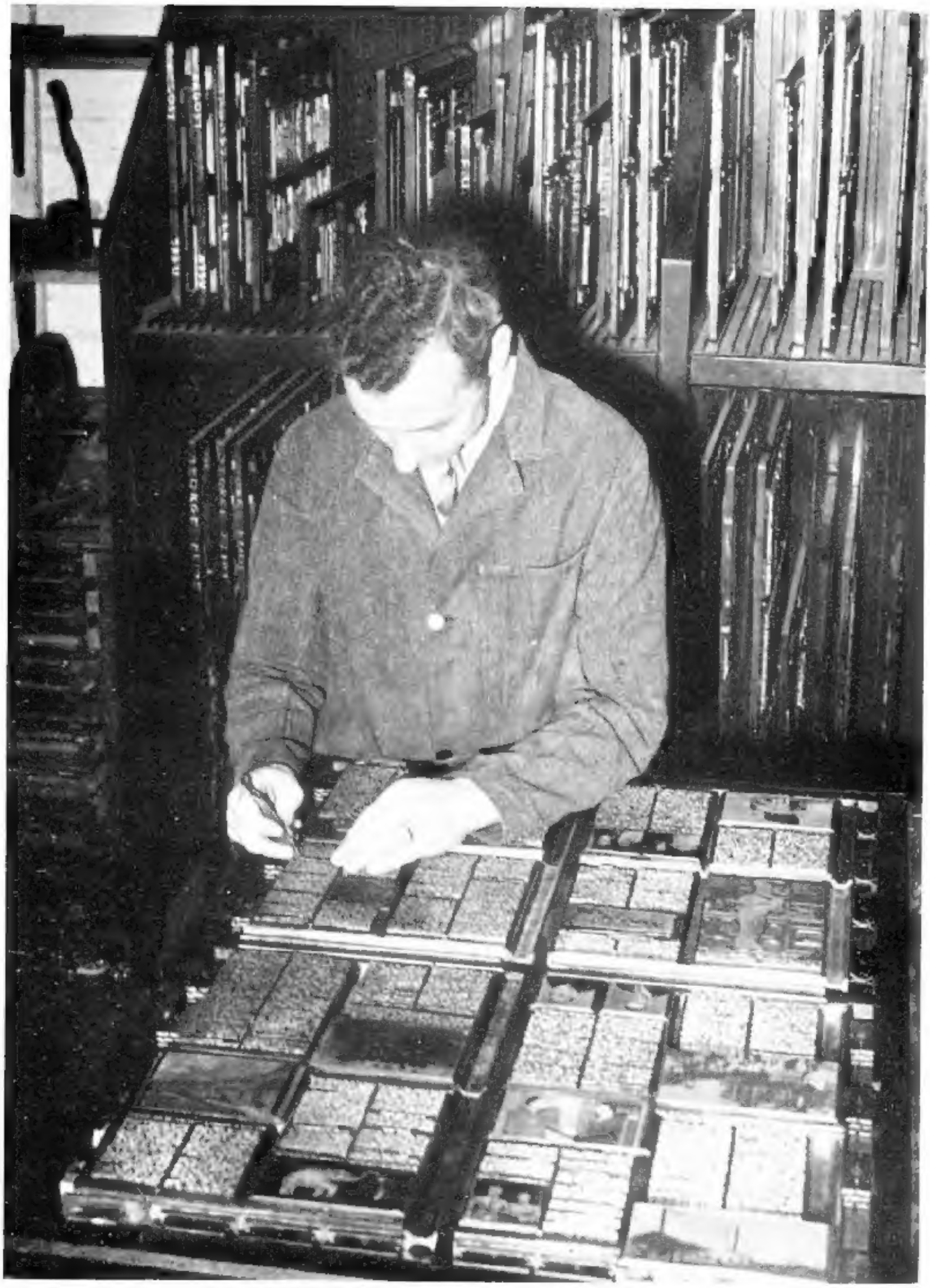
This month's front cover shows a sheet of the Marconi Magazine being printed. The pressman is adjusting his machine


*EDITOR: L. W. B. MILLER, Room 116, MARCONI HOUSE*

*Published by*

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED
CHELMSFORD, ENGLAND



*A compositor making corrections to the imposed forme of sixteen pages*

# Your Magazine

HERE IS THE STORY, briefly told, of what goes on during the month to make up this magazine. We hope that it will give you a better idea of how it is formed, laid out, printed and distributed.

The captain of the enterprise is the Publicity Manager, R. P. Raikes. W. E. Davis, a print and production expert, gives invaluable assistance. Dusty Miller is the Editor. It is due to the united efforts of this team that the magazine was born and that each issue comes out on the second Thursday of every month.

With Dusty in the editorial office is Kay Macdonald, who helps him put the material into shape, edit it and produce the finished "copy" for the printer. Not the least of her duties is to keep the manuscripts, records and photographs carefully filed.

It must be remembered that the quality and scope of the magazine relies on the willing co-operation of everyone in the Company including contributors, correspondents, photographers, sellers, and the Editorial Advisory Committee.

As you scan your magazine to see what is in it, so we have already combed it—we know the pages almost by heart. To us it is another job done, the result of weeks of work.

Putting our copy down, we turn to the next issue, now in the make-up stage within a week of going to press, and the next issue but one already being pieced together, another forty pages of super jig-saw.

*Dusty Miller, with Pat O'Connor, W. E. Davis's assistant, laying out the magazine, while Kay Macdonald puts the finishing touches to the copy*

Ideas for future issues have already been conceived, and articles planned. The stories and Works articles are being gathered together, news items hounded down, photographs taken and selected. Each item will be shaped and sized so that line by line and inch by inch the copy will be made to fit the allocated space by press day.

All through the month we are gradually building up current and future issues. We glean copy from everywhere. It is all grist to our mill.

In the meantime, the plan of a leading article is taking shape, and another must be forming and photographs to illustrate it taken. Editor and photographer may spend as much as two days linking up with heads of departments and sections to make sure of the right pictures.

The "I Was There" has been written by a retired engineer. He has been to no end of trouble for us. He has dug out his old photographs, he has found his diaries, he has written his story. At length we receive his draft, his prints, even his precious glass negatives of forty years ago. Some are beyond reproduction, some are good. Carefully we select and pass them to the Photographic Section to be copied.

There are, at the same time, other "I Was Theres" in preparation. One author has no photographs at all, but he thinks of a friend who was on the same job. We contact him and find he has just what is wanted.

Towards the end of the magazine month things begin to move fast. The topical news items are assembled as up to date as possible. On copy day our regular correspondents send us the backbone of news from Works and outstations and the irregular ones pop in with ideas. The sports secretaries bring their reports and match results and we grasp the opportunity of arranging to photograph future fixtures.

This month's issue is uppermost in

*The compositor setting type by hand from the cases*

our minds but all the time that it is being formed we have one eye on the month to come.

Now comes the time to cast off the copy and draw out to scale each page to form the master plan of the whole magazine. By means of working out the total number of lines of column width that the copy will make, we can forecast the space it will occupy, and by adding to that the area of the illustrations we can map out each page.

The magazine is printed in 9 point Times type. Times was designed by Stanley Morrison, whose whole purpose was to find a readable type for the narrow column, and it is acknowledged by eminent typographers that the eye travels over it with ease and without fatigue.

Headings such as the "I Was There" are set in Perpetua. It is a pleasant combination with Times and was designed by sculptor Eric Gill. His roman capitals combine the nobility of the early stone chiselled letters with the elegance of the modern trend.

Having calculated the number of lines in the copy and selected the photographs, the next thing is to mark the

"bleeding" edges of the pages on the layout sheets. A photograph is made to "bleed off" when the picture overlaps the margin and runs off the page, a system which can be used most effectively at times when juggling with lines of copy which if cut may mean savaging an author's ideals of artistry. The next step is sizing the photographs and marking them to scale so that the blockmaker will understand the reduction wanted. We never were good at sums, so the engineer's slide rule has become our inseparable friend.

The story of the plan must be explained to the printer as clearly as possible and the layout is the medium. From the copy he sets the type, and from the layout he puts it together in page formation.

Now, having marked up the copy, calculated every line, placed each illustration and drawn the dummy page by page—a task which takes three whole days—the layout is complete.

With canvas grip and coat-tails flying, we set out for Colchester to that Queen Anne house with the blue door which opens to the offices of Benham and Company Ltd., our printers.

Then with T. C. Hart, Print Director of that Company, and Harold Manning, his print overseer, we sit in happy conclave and emerge with the feeling that we have handed our *magnum opus* to craftsmen who are really interested in our magazine and who will see it through to the final polished product.

The main body of text copy is set by Monotype machine, but even so in magazine and display setting there is much handwork to be done.

The operator of the first part of the mechanical process works at a keyboard similar to a typewriter, where it would appear that he is re-typing the copy. In effect, when he presses a key it punches a hole in a roll of paper so that when he has finished "tapping" the copy there will be corresponding holes in the roll of paper for the letters and spaces of each line.

The second process follows when the punched paper roll is placed in the Monotype caster. Compressed air is forced against the roll and when it passes through a hole sets in operation a system of levers which place the matrix case in exactly the right position for casting the letter. When it is locked

*The Monotype keyboard operator tapping out the copy*

in position, molten metal is pumped into the mould and a slug is cast. It is faced, trimmed, and pushed out of the machine on to the galley tray in the reverse order to the characters on the typewritten copy. Each line is cast and moved up in the galley, so that the column is built up automatically. The compositor takes the columns on the galley, corrects them where necessary, and slides them on to his stone, a flat metal-covered table, ready for imposition. The type is made up into pages according to the layout, and framed in "chases", rather like large metal windows with a pane for each page, two of sixteen pages and one of eight, making forty in all.

In the meantime, the photographs and the drawings have been sent to the block-maker, who makes half-tone and line blocks from the originals.

If you look closely with a glass at a half-tone reproduction of a photograph, you will see that the picture is formed of a number of dots which are separate in the lights and merge in the shadows. It is a long story, but briefly our photograph has been rephotographed through a screen on to a copper plate. After being treated with chemicals the plate is etched with acid and by this means its surface becomes a series of dots which carry the ink to the paper in the tones of a photograph. The plates are mounted on wood or metal, and now as blocks are inserted in the formes, and each forme is temporarily "locked up". This means that the type is held with "furniture" and wedged with quoins so that it cannot move in the press. A proof is taken, which is sent to us and also to Marconi Instruments at St. Albans for reading and checking. Any corrections are made by hand, replacing type where necessary, and the forme is finally secured ready to be placed on the bed of the printing machine.

But this is not by any means the end of the long preparation of type for printing. Once on the machine it must be "made ready", which means a final adjustment of the pressure which will be applied to the paper as it meets the type. This again reveals the skill of the printer and the years of experience it takes to know exactly how to produce the beautiful

*The type emerging from the casting machine on to the galley tray*

*The folded sheets being wired through the spine*

*T. C. Salmon with some of the section distributors: (left to right) Sheila Ambrose, June Charlick, Betty Philp, Ann Hogan, Pat Bavister*

finish which you see in our magazine. To achieve this, the pressure of the paper from the cylinder on each block must be tested, and the block so adjusted that the pressure is correct on every part of its surface.

As each sheet of art paper is fed to the machine, the edges are clasped in grippers on the cylinder. This rotates, the forme on the bed of the machine moves beneath it, and as it does so the ink on the face of the type is transferred to the surface of the paper.

The sheets travel from the cylinder in crisp black and white succession. They are printed on the reverse and stacked and dried. Next they are folded and gathered in page order. The cover, printed separately, has a somewhat brusque introduction to its contents when it is straddled over them on a saddle stitcher and securely wired through the spine. Now facing the end, in piles the magazines are ranged along the mightly guillotine. Off with their heads! The shining blade descends. Then—trimmed and neat, they are borne away to be packed, parcelled, and delivered.

On the second Tuesday afternoon in every month Benham's van drives into the Works yard, and nine large brown paper packages are taken into the general office of the Personnel Section, where T. C. Salmon starts to prepare the distribution. Mr. Salmon brings out his master list, which is divided into three sections of subscribers: those whose copies must be posted, the staff, and thirty sections in the Works. He and his assistant, working from the list, make piles of copies to be despatched by post to places all across the globe from South Africa to Iceland, from Buenos Aires to Hong Kong, the U.S.A. and Canada, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Persia, Pakistan, Australia, Brazil, Ballybunnion and, of course, Scotland.

On the Wednesday the counted bundles, each one with its individual list, grow on the office table until finally they are ready for despatch to one

hundred points in the Company's organisation. In addition to the copies distributed from the Works, 475 are sent separately from the printers direct to Marconi Instruments at St. Albans.

On Thursday the parcels are distributed by van and the bundles are taken round to the various sections for issue after the day's work. Eric Marshall, Vic Church, Ted Mackey, and Freddie Bew, stalwarts of the early days, go down to Mr. Salmon's office and collect their bundles, proportionately divided, to sell at the gates at 5 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.; Eric and Vic at the New Street entrance and Ted and Freddie at Glebe Road.

When empty-handed they return with jingling pockets, and "Sammy" bears the money off to the cashier, in the editorial office, we turn to the next issue, now in the make-up stage within a week of going to press, and the next issue but one already being pieced together, another forty pages of super jig-saw. . . .

*Ted Mackey and Freddie Bew collect their copies to sell at the Glebe Road gate*

*Miss M. B. Brown buys her copy at the New Street gate from Eric Marshall, whose companion, Vic Church, seems to have eluded the camera*

# FESTIVAL NEWS

## TELEKINEMA

A few days before the Festival opened a large and distinguished gathering of the Radio Section of the Institution of Electrical Engineers held a meeting at the telekinema. It was fitting that the first "full house" in this wonder-theatre should

*George Partington, Chief of Television Development, lectures to a distinguished audience in the telekinema*

be of eminent scientists who enjoyed lectures and demonstrations via a Marconi TV camera and the cinema screen

Among those who gave lectures was George Partington, our Chief of Television Development, and the accompanying picture shows him during his talk on the Image Orthicon and Marconi TV equipment.

## ROYAL VISIT

When the Royal Family visited the South Bank Exhibition on 4 May, an "on-the-spot" television programme was shown on a cinema screen to an audience for the first time. This was due to the research of our Television Demonstration Section, now installed in the Telekinema for the duration of the Festival.

When it became known that the Royal route was through the forecourt in which the telekinema stands, the Section went into action, took a Marconi TV camera outside, and shot pictures of the Royal visitors on the large screen. Then the audience saw a demonstration of simultaneous news-reel T.V.

Despite the very bad weather the television pictures were excellent, providing a better view inside the theatre than most people had outside.

Mr. John Watt, of B.B.C. Variety fame, gave the running commentary while Terry Pace was cameraman.

## SHOT TOWER

It is a long, long climb up the Shot Tower, and although only one ascent was necessary to take pictures, we felt for all those people who have had to climb it many times a day for some weeks past.

*At the opening of the South Bank Exhibition Terry Pace was our cameraman. John Watt gave the running commentary for the B.B.C.*

*Looking down from the Shot Tower to the Festival Embankment. Jutting out in the foreground is the Yagi aerial*

The revolving lighthouse optic at the top is remotely controlled by wireless. A Marconi VHF transmitter at St. James's Square triggers a receiver on the tower which starts the light and every night throughout the Festival our sets will switch on the light at sunset and switch it off at midnight

## BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR

*The Company's stand at the B.I.F., Birmingham. W. J. Munday and C. J. Harter with a visitor*

# St. John Brigade at Boreham

The Marconi Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under Supt. C. Bedwell, came into its own again at the motor-cycle race meeting on 28 April at Boreham Airfield. Posted at points on the track, Privates D. Parry, E. Cooper, L. Gratze, R. Fisher, and J. Cowie were ready with Marconi Type L-45 walkie talkie apparatus to call up the ambulance in the event of a spill, and to render first aid. Private D. Lambert acted as radio controller at the base station, using L-67 VHF equipment. Private E. Fenner on his motor-cycle was usefully employed as a link between posts.

During the afternoon a rider came to grief at "Tower Corner", and immediately a call from Private Parry's walkie-talkie flashed in to the base, calling for the ambulance and asking for a doctor to be in attendance at the First Aid Tent on its return. In the very few moments before it arrived on the scene of the accident, Parry and Cooper gave first aid and got the man on to a stretcher. Good drill in the use of this radio network between outstation and base again proved invaluable, as the injured man received expert medical attention with the least possible delay.

*Pte. J. Cowie, equipped with walkie-talkie, watches the riders at Waltham Corner*

*One of the competitors crashed at "Tower Corner". Pte. D. Parry rushed for the ambulance and he and Pte. E. Cooper rendered first aid*

*Eminent Marconi Scientists at the presentation of the Faraday Medal to T. L. Eckersley: Capt. H. J. Round, T. L. Eckersley and C. S. Franklin, who was himself awarded the Faraday Medal in 1949. On the right is Sir Archibald Gill, President of the I.E.E.*

# PRESENTATION OF FARADAY MEDAL TO T. L. ECKERSLEY

The Faraday Medal was presented to T. L. Eckersley by Sir Archibald Gill, the President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, at Marconi House, on 1 May. Sir Archibald did Mr. Eckersley the unique honour of coming to Chelmsford personally for the presentation, in order to save him traveling to London.

The Chairman, Sir George Nelson, said in the course of his speech:

"There have been many historic occasions and many distinguished men associated with the Marconi Company and its achievements in research and development in the application of radio waves.

"Today we have been privileged to be present at a ceremony at which the researches and achievements of one man are being acknowledged and rewarded by the award of the Faraday Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers—the greatest honour that can be accorded to any member of that great professional body.

"It is my privilege to welcome on behalf of the Marconi people here present, and wherever they are in the world, the President of the Institution, Sir Archibald Gill, and the members of the delegation of Past Presidents, Professor Moulin, Sir Noel Ashbridge, and Sir Stanley Angwin, who are depated to confer this honour on Mr. Eckersley—that man whose brilliant thoughts and research have played such a great part in the propagation of radio waves, and who has heroically carried on that work for us though he unfortunately developed an illness which would have deterred lesser men in their work.

"Everybody connected with the Marconi Company is delighted that his name is to be added to the scroll of honour of Faraday Medallists and associated with the names of those who have been probably Britain's greatest scientists; and in congratulating Mr. Eckersley we should like to pay a tribute to, and welcome to this ceremony his devoted wife who has meant so much to him in his sickness, and who has helped him in his work and his comfort in such a wonderful way."

"I WAS THERE"

# A Memorable Broadcast

## BY W. T. DITCHAM

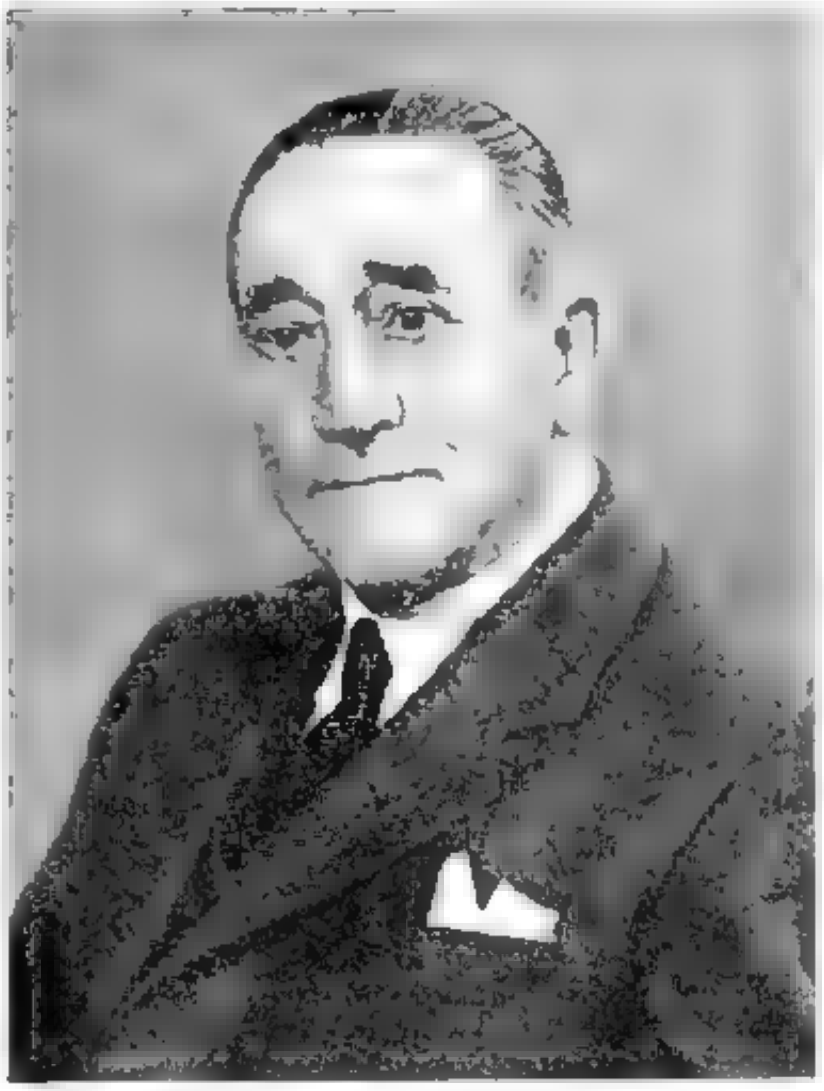
THOSE AMONG us who recall clearly the period immediately after the first world war will readily appreciate at least one marked difference between the normal life of today and that of 1920. In that period there was in this country no such thing as radio broadcasting.

It must, I think, be rather difficult for the younger generation to visualise a world without "the radio" to bring into the home that flow of news, weather reports, information and varied entertainment which we now accept as one of the commonplaces, or even essentials, of modern existence.

About the time of which I am speaking the use of wireless telephony for public entertainment was also arousing keen interest in the United States, and programmes were being transmitted from at least two experimental stations, at Pittsburgh and Schenectady.

Early in 1920 Captain H. J. Round, then Chief of Research, told me to concentrate on our own experimental station. My team, limited in number but not in skill and enterprise, rapidly constructed and put into operation a multi-valve telephone transmitter at the Chelmsford Works. The "Daddy" of all British broadcasters was in the building now used for mobile V.H.F. testing

We were very fortunately situated for the provision of an effective aerial. In those days two 400-foot tubular steel masts were in position in the Works' grounds, and many Chelmsfordians will remember these prominent landmarks which could be seen for miles around.



*W. T. Ditcham*

A licence was granted by the Post Office, and using 2800 metres, the wavelength of the Poldhu station, experimental transmissions began. We used to transmit for one hour each evening on five days of the week.

The programmes, if they could be so named, would scarcely arouse much enthusiasm amongst present-day listeners, consisting as they did of yours truly reciting the names of the London railway stations and reading extracts from the newspapers, strengthened, when possible,

by musical talent recruited from the Works. I remember we found a really fine soprano, a good tenor, and a virtuoso on the one-string fiddle, all of whom with occasional piano solos served to while away the time

The underlying reason for much of this, of course, was to experiment with circuits and adjustments in order to obtain the best possible quality of reproduction.

The only microphones available to us were of the carbon granule type, and I suppose the quality must have been poor by modern standards, but one incident proved that some degree of faithful reproduction was attained.

I was buying a paper one evening at the railway bookstall and while talking to the clerk a stranger butted in.

" Excuse me, but aren't you the fellow who does the talking on the wireless from Chelmsford?"

"You are quite right", I replied, "but what made you recognise me?"

"Well, I listen in every night at home in Cardiff," he said, "and I'd know your voice anywhere "

And that seemed to me a very gratifying tribute at least to the natural quality of our speech.

The telephony tests soon collected an interested audience and, although I suppose most of the listeners had nothing better than crystal receivers, it was surprising the number of reports we received from all parts of Great Britain as well as from the Continent.

The final boost to the whole operation was given in June 1920 when, thanks to the initiative of the *Daily Mail*, arrangements were made for the famous prima donna, Dame Nellie Melba, to sing from the Chelmsford Works

I very clearly recall that afternoon on 15 June 1920 when I walked down the Work's grounds with Melba and the late Arthur Burrows (soon to become widely known as "Uncle Arthur") to show her the radio transmitter before the broadcast.

As we walked along under the lofty antenna, Burrows, with dramatic gestures, started to declaim:

"It is from the summit of those great towers, Dame Nellie, that your voice will shortly be borne away through the ether of space to an expectant continent."

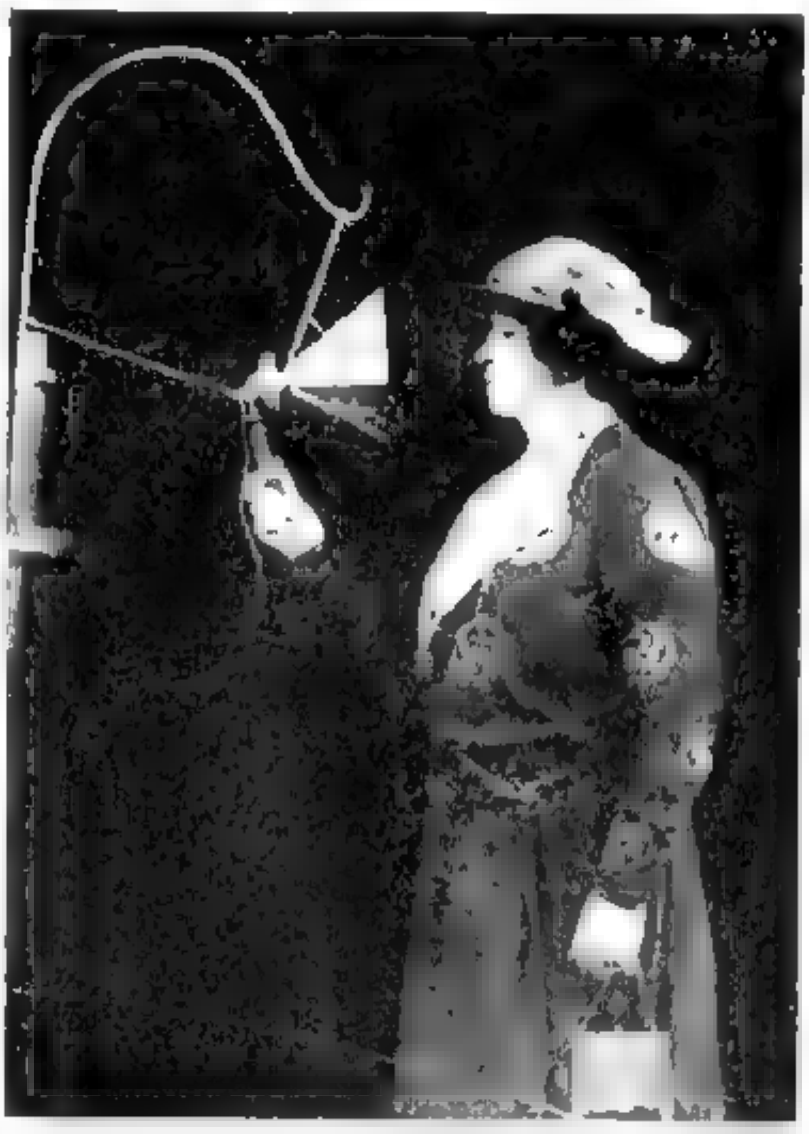
Melba peered upward with an expression of acute alarm and without batting an eyelid replied, "Look here, young man, you are not getting me to climb up there at my time of life".

She was decidedly a humorist, and anyone less like the popular conception of a temperamental opera star could not be imagined.

So Melba having returned to the temporary studio in the Works, we started up the transmitter. I must admit I was not free from nervousness on this momentous occasion. Any breakdown would probably mean a complete fiasco, with stultifying effects on the progress of British broadcasting, to say nothing of the loss in prestige to the Company.

The "go-ahead" signal was given to

*Dame Nellie Melba making her broadcast from Chelmsford in 1920*



*The set of masts which spanned the Works at the time when broadcasts from 5A V were being made*

the studio and I stood in front of the transmitter listening with headphones on the check receiver and watching the aerial ammeter.

Burrows made the initial announcement and the pianist started on the introduction to Melba's opening song. Suddenly, to my horror, the aerial current dropped to zero and the music ceased. Simultaneously, by some incredible piece of good luck, I glimpsed a tiny blue spark inside one of the transmitting valves.

Shouting to one of the lads to pull the main switch, I tore away the connecting leads from the suspicious valve, signalled for the switch to be thrown in, and with great relief saw the aerial current return to practically normal and heard the piano still playing, followed a second or so later by the trill of Melba's incomparable voice.

The remainder of the concert went off splendidly and without a vestige of trouble. So narrow can be the margin between resounding success and dismal failure in any pioneering operation.

For the benefit of technical readers I will explain that the faulty oscillatory valve was found to have its grid touching the filament, thus short-circuiting the whole high frequency bank, and but for fortuitously spotting the blue spark it would probably have taken a ruinously long time to discover the reason for the breakdown.

The Melba broadcast was a sensational success, and congratulatory letters poured in from all over Britain and many countries of Europe, while Press reports added to the publicity. The public wanted more of this sort of thing, and, as we all know, it was not very long before they got it.

On certain occasions I have heard old-timers refer to the "luck of Marconi's"

I would propound the question, "What other pioneering concern has a better claim to any luck that may be going than the Marconi Company?"

DUSTY MILLER. *Editor of "The Marconi Companies and Their People". Joined the Company at the inception of the magazine. During the war served as a Gunnery Officer in the Royal Navy and later joined Admiralty Editorial Staff. Bachelor. Known to his friends to be well up in compost heaps. In summer initials follow the name in cricketing order.*

# AROUND THE COMPANIES

## New Street

### OVER THE SLIDE

Frank Cawston is storekeeper of the Wire Stores. He and Walter Wade hand out wire by the pound and by the yard, by the coil, and by the drum. Over the slide it goes in single core and multicore, strand and sleeve in all colours of the rainbow.

The slide is the counter topped by the sliding windows where everybody goes for wire. Writtle, Baddow, Broomfield, Rivenhall, A.T.C., and College all call for it.

Frank has been with the Company since 1934. Before that he was a regular in the R.A.S.C. Now in his spare time he is treasurer of the R.A.S.C. Association (Chelmsford) as well as being secretary of the Service Committee which handles the Pensions and Benevolent Fund of the British Legion in Chelmsford. But Frank always reserves Wednesday evening for his garden, his cucumbers, and his onions. Walter plays cricket, and when he can't play cricket he tends three acres of apple trees.

### TOOL ROOM TRAWLERS

One Sunday at the end of April a few stout hearts from the Tool Room ventured out from Brightlingsea for a day's trawling. "Nana's" oilskin rig stood him in good

*T.T.'s at sea*

*Pauline Amphlett, Mrs. Marjorie Hughes, and Violet Poulter from the Winding Shop draw wire stores from Storekeeper Frank Cawston and his assistant, Walter Wade*

s.ead, especially when Norris Ely, while fill ng a saucepan for tea, inadvertently tipped the whole thing down the hatch on to the nap school! Les Atkins found his half empty glass suddenly br mming over. Bill Slaughter, Jim Edgar, and Bert Metca f in the dinghy got a thorot gh soaking *not* due to a heavy sea, but Jim nearly got his revenge later when, during his trick at the helm, he missed a buoy by the skin of his teeth. It was a grand day, and sharing out the catch afterwards everyone had abou. 30 .b. of roker fskate), sole and pl ice to take home.

## FROM ONE SECTION TO ANOTHER

Sam Smith follows the white line through the Works on his electric truck. He takes parts from stores to bench or from Processing to Assembly. He takes units to Test and from Test to Packing. In fact he always has a load. Left foot down is go ahead, left foot up is stop. The left hand lever is the gear change and the right hand lever the steering

Sam and his truck are both licensed for the road, and he is equally at home outside in traffic as in the Shops. After ten years' experience, he says the most dangerous people are those who, still talking, step out of office doors backwards.

In charge of trucks and drivers is Tubby Havell, whose trilby is well known. To him come the orders to move work, and he

*Sam Smith gets instructions from Tubby Havell to take a load from Section 17 to Test*

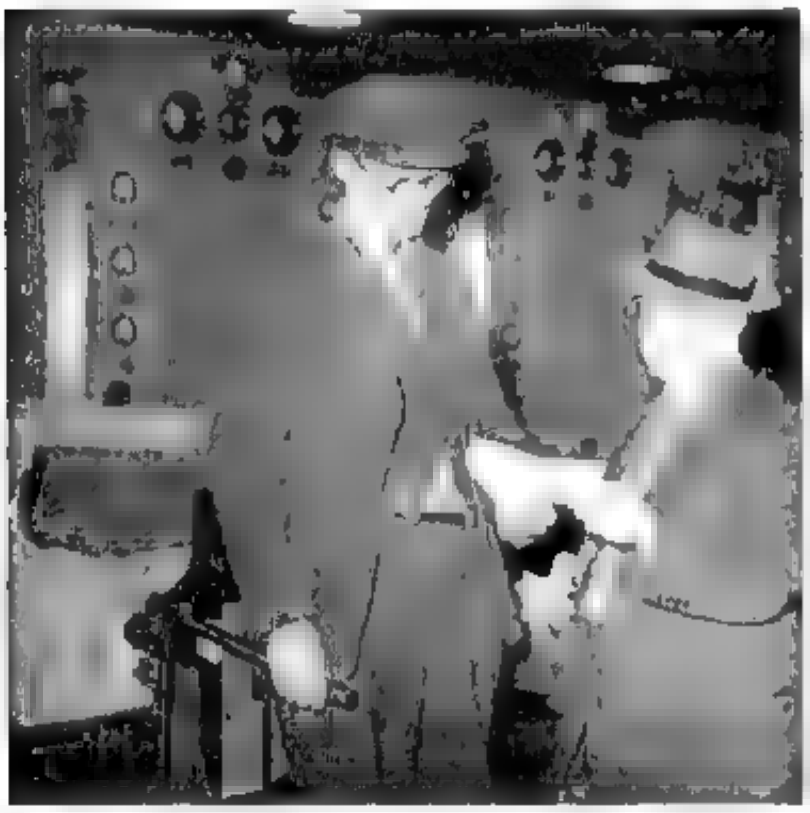
*St. Mary's Lodge, New Street*

directs Sam and five other drivers, Ted Isborne, Stan Holegate, Bert Watling, Mark Spooner, and Harry Barron from one section to another.

## ST. MARY'S LODGE HOSTEL

St. Mary's Lodge, New Street, has been redecorated and converted into a hostel for twelve apprentices. Additional bathrooms have been installed as well as a basin in each bedroom. Every comfort has been provided, there is a spacious and well-furnished lounge, and breakfast and evening meals are served by the Steward and Housekeeper, Mr. and Mrs. F. Shaw.

The re-equipment of the hostel was carried out by the Plant Engineer, R. Sargent, and Surveyor, W. J. Laws.



## VETERANS' REUNION

The fifteenth reunion and annual general meet ng of the Marconi Veterans Association was held on 5 May at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Qual.fication for membership is twenty-five years' service with the Marconi Companies, and of the total membership of 2200 no less than 1900 are stil serving. At noon 160 Veterans gathered to talk over old times, and at lunch H. E. Watterson (1902) presided, with W. I. McGhee (1904) as deputy. In support were C. F. Rickard (1898), H. M. Dowsett, C. S. Franklin, and Andrew Gray (1899), W. Davies, A. A. Kift, H. J. Round, G. E. Turnbull, and W. M. Sampson (1902),

W. Platt (1904), F. Beatson, A. J. Chesterton, Sir Ernest Fisk, and C. C. Howe (1906), R. C. A. Kroes and L. F. Meyer represented the Dutch members and received a very cordial welcome.

The chairman proposed the health of new Veterans, to which R. H. G. Cox replied, and F. H. Lansbury proposed the toast to absent friends.

R. Ferguson, now General Manager of The Marconi International Marine Communication Co. Ltd., proposed the health of the chairman, who, in his reply, recalled some of his experiences in many parts of the world with the Marconi Company. Sir Ernest Fisk also spoke and R. C. A. Kroes paid high tribute to the work of the chairman in the "early days".

At the annual general meeting which followed, the following officers were elected for 1951-2: Chairman, W. I. McGhee (1904); deputy chairman, A. A. Kift (1902); standing committee, E. H. Cooper, A. A. Kift, and C. J. Simpson (Parent Company), J. Connell, T. A. Simpson, and H. C. Van de Velde (Marine Company), H. Dawson (Cable and Wireless Group), and T. A. Van der Vlies (Associated Companies), hon. secretary, T. C. Salmon; hon. treasurer, W. T. Kipling; and hon. auditor, F. Jennery.

## HOME AGAIN

We went to visit F. W. Archer at his home

*Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Archer at home*

the other day, and are very glad to say that he is getting on well after months in hospital, where he had his leg amputated just below the knee.

Freddie Archer is well known in the Company. Although he retired last year, he still takes a keen interest in its activities, remains a vice-president of the Angling Society, and took his turn as president for the season just finished.

He joined the Company early in 1900, and started in the Coherer Department at

*Who thought Ladies' Football was something new? Here is the Marconi team in 1917 with (right) Sandy Bryant and W. S. Bloomfield who are still with us*

Hall Street. He moved with the Company to Dalston and returned to Chelmsford in 1908. The year 1912 took him to New Street, where he served for nearly forty years. During the first world war he was with the Royal Engineers. He was one of the original founders of the Sports and Social Club, with Paul Dumenil, Charlie Roberts, Jim Torrie, Jack Campion, and C. Mitchell, who was Works Manager at the time.

A Veteran of Veterans, he served with the Company for fifty years. Mrs. Archer joined the Company in 1905 at Hall Street. She first met Freddie there when he smiled at her from his window. She left the Company in 1918, when in charge of the Winding Shop under Richard Cave.

While we were talking to her, Mrs. Archer hunted through her old photographs and found a picture of some of her friends who played for the Marconi Ladies' Football team during the first world war, when they played to raise money for troops' comforts.

## OFF TO ONTARIO . . .

Wednesday evening, 4 April, saw considerable activity in the Tool Drawing Office. Presentation of a Ronson lighter inscribed "From friends at Marconi's" was being made to Harry (Yus mate!) Hewetson on his leaving to take up a permanent job in Peterboro', Ontario. His wife and small son Tony will follow him as soon as possible.

Harry's brother Sid has also left the Tool Room, sailing on 17 May, to join him in Canada, and we wish them all possible luck in their venture.

## . . . AND NOVA SCOTIA

J. W. Brittain of the Mechanical Designs Department at Baddow left the Company at the end of April to sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Before he left, R. J. Kemp, Chief of Research, presented him with a cheque on behalf of his many friends. That evening Mr. and Mrs. Brittain were the guests of honour at a dinner given for them by the Mechanical Designs Department to wish them all good fortune.

## HOME FROM KANKAKEE

Back from the States on holiday to visit her family is Mrs. Peggy Buss. She came to Marconi House to see her old friends

*Mrs. Peggy Buss (Peggy Garner when she worked here) brought her daughter Katrina to see old friends. With her is Joyce Malyon of the Test Division*

Phyllis Barnard, Joyce Malyon, and Chris Moores, with whom she worked in the Test Division, under P. Smee, from 1937 to 1946. Peggy Garner, as she was in those days, has a sister in the Company—Joyce Rawlingson of the Publicity Department

Peggy says she loves the States. Her husband Ben is an ex-G.I., to whom she was introduced at Shenfield during the war by Mrs. Myra Conway, also a G.I. bride, and daughter of A. T. Cadman, Supplies Manager. Ben is a welder in the A. O. Smith Corporation's water heater factory. He was unable to get away for three months to come with Peggy, but she has brought eighteen-month-old Katrina to see the family.

Peggy and Ben live on the outskirts of Kankakee, about sixty miles south of Chicago, in the flat country south of Lake Michigan, and she says it is really very like Essex. They have what she calls a "frame house", and when we asked what that was, she said that like most private houses it is built completely of wood on a brick foundation. There is a nice garden for Katrina to play in, and everyone is very friendly.

We asked Peggy, who has quite an American intonation, if she thought the folks at home had changed much after five years. "Well," she said, "I was quite sure I hadn't picked up an American accent, but now you all sound very funny."

# Baddow (Research)

## A MOVING SPECTACLE

W. H. Roper of Section "R" is the proud possessor of a house which we will call "A". The attached house next door, "B", the mirror image of "A", belongs to a chap named well let's call him Smith. Now Mr. Smith lived in "A" and Mr. Roper lived in "B" and at the end of each month Smith came out of his front door and slipped his cheque for rent into Roper's letter box. A few minutes later Roper would do the same thing in the reverse direction a happy, though rather odd, state of affairs.

There came a time when Roper decided that he would like to leave the "B" house and go to live in his own "A" house for the simple reason that "A" has (to Roper) many advantages over the "B" house. Smith, of course, did not want to take possession of the "B" house for the same reason.

Roper invoked the law to obtain possession of his "A" house but happily litigation did not follow for the contestants came to an amicable (for Roper) arrangement which was endorsed by the law.

Now on a certain day in June Mr. Roper moves from the "B" house into "A" and simultaneously Mr. Smith moves from "A" into the "B" house.

We feel that this moving occasion should be widely publicised for we believe it would compete with the Festival of Britain from the point of view of interest to our foreign visitors, for surely this unique situation could only occur in England.

Incidentally, if Mr. Roper wants any tips in moving we recommend him to get in touch with J. J. Keating who has recently had a lot of experience in this kind of work during the redecoration of the Baddow Offices. In addition to seeing that offices are vacated in time to allow the painters to move in Mr Keating has the difficult job of placating the evicted tenants and finding them other temporary accommodation. It says much for his organising abilities and tact that up to the present there is no evidence of tempers having become frayed.

## CONVALESCENT

Many of the Marconi Company employees still remember, with affection, John Redhouse, who retired some years ago from Baddow where he was employed as Chief Rigger. John has, at the age of seventy-eight, recently undergone a major operation in Chelmsford Hospital and we are glad to say that he has now left hospital and returned to his home near Dunmow to convalesce. In a letter which he wrote from his home to Albert Post he thanks all those friends who visited him in hospital and all those who inquired after him. We are sure all who knew John would like us to send him their best wishes. Incidently, John says he always looks forward to reading the Magazine.

# College

April the first is our Chief's birthday. Unhappily it fell on a Sunday this year, but strange things happened on the Monday. R. E. Burnett, wishing to use his internal telephone that morning, was at a loss to hear, instead of the dialling tone, the chant of a mixed choir singing the theme of "Happy Birthday". An unknown voice then "pleaded for propitiation in pulling the prime pedagogue's perambulatory pedestal". Fearing for his sanity, the Chief then "replaced his plummet on its plinth" and picked it up again—only to get the dialling tone. The College is not a large building and all his staff seemed to be in their proper pigeon-holes. Doubt assailed him. It grew. Had he really heard anything? Could it possibly be coincidence that the wires had got crossed so appropriately? Had somebody a birthday on 2 April? But why "Prime Pedagogue" if it wasn't meant for him? The less said about this the better, he thought. People might begin to wonder!

Some while later, however, he caught sight of a gramophone suspiciously near the telephone exchange . . . Relief!

At the beginning of the present course at the College in March, we welcomed a new steward and housekeeper.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Hulme who came here from Surbiton, now feel quite settled in to their surroundings. They are looking after us very well, and as our students form a very cosmopolitan crowd, it says much for them that the residents are happy. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Hulme every success and happiness in this post.

## APPRENTICES

Apprentices who visit the Manpower Exhibition organised by the Ministry of Labour as part of the Festival of Britain, will see famil ar faces at the Physical Society Competition stand, D. J. Cork with a first R. C. Pallemaerts with a second, and P. S Champ with a third prize will be on duty in turn at the stand for periods in June, August, and September. A card will be displayed on the stand giving the names a nd firms of the exhibits on it, and will invite vis tors to ask the apprentices about their training as well as about the exhibits.

The Exhibition is being held at the Safety, Health, and Welfare Museum, Horseferry Road, Westminster.

The technical visits programme this summer includes two Festival days, one at the South Bank in June, for which we hope to form a party of apprentices under nineteen years of age, and the other at the Science Exh bition at South Kensington. On the lighter side, the Social Secretary, J. Proudfoot, has arranged an outing on Saturday 14 July, when his party will visit the South Bank, cruise down the river, and go to the Festival Gardens in the evening

The Secretary would like to remind everyone that the Carnival is rapidly approaching, and entries for the Carnival Design Competition, for which the prize is £1, are welcomed by the Selection Committee, c o Works Education Office. Anyone interested in taking part in the tableaux or in helping to prepare it, please contact a committee member as soon as possible.

# Writtle

## COLD COMFORT

When P. MacKenzie was discussing with his friend John Blyther the merits or otherwise of refrigerators and the difficulty of keeping cool such things as milk and butter during the hot weather, John calmly remarked that his own idea, that of sinking a shaft under the floor of his house, had worked admirably. You could, he said, lower into it milk, butter, eggs, or in extreme cases hot-tempered wives, to be stored until further notice.

He assured Mac that this method of storage was very efficient, but that while actually excavating he had had to endure much scathing criticism from Mrs. B., and veiled sympathy from the neighbours who obviously thought it was only a question of time before the big white van would call for him.

However, Mrs. B's opposition was eventually overcome and the neighbours dumbfounded, for to everyone's surprise (including John's?) the thing really worked. And now in warm weather, instead of a pilgrimage to the pantry to collect a bottle of hot and tired milk, all John has to do is to pull up a couple of floor-boards, reach down and grab a rope, and in the presence of his goggle-eyed guests haul up the milk.

Mac passes on this idea for what it is worth, but he says don't blame him if there is strong domestic opposition to having a shaft sunk in the middle of the dining-room!

## APPOINTMENT

H. H. Lightfoot has been appointed Deputy Supervisor of Drawing Offices, and has moved into New Street after ten years at Writtle. He started in W P. Noel's Portable Design Section in 1932, and was transferred to Writtle in 1940, where he eventually became Chief of the Airborne D O.

Many people will remember that during the war Harry Lightfoot was a versatile member of the "Pe Be De" Concert Party, the proceeds from which went to the D.O. Services Fund.

On leaving Writtle he was presented with a gift which should help him to keep his larger staff well "drilled". Our best wishes for success go to him and to G. Payne, who takes over the responsibility of Writtle Air D.O.

## RETIREMENTS

E. E. Collis retired on 4 May 1951 after forty years' service with the Company. He started at Hall Street Works in April 1911,

*H. H. Lightfoot*

*F. R. Stocker*

and it was there that he earned his nickname of "Worky", which has stuck to him ever since. In 1912 he moved to New Street and for the rest of his service he has remained in the Mounting Shop, where most types of equipment produced by the Company have passed through his hands.

Mr. Coll s particularly remembers the tests of the first speech broadcasts between Broomfield and New Street, and was one of a party from the Mounting Shop who were privileged to listen in. He remembers assembling some of the instruments for the spark set lost in the Titanic.

P. W. Coombs retired from the Marine Company on 9 February, after thirty-five years of service. He joined the Company in 1916, and served as a Radio Officer until the end of the war, when he transferred to Marine Accounts. He was presented on leaving with an autograph album containing over 100 signatures, and a cheque. His many friends wish him well in his retirement.

F. R. Stocker retired on 6 May 1951 after twenty-five years in the Company's service. Soon after the outbreak of war in 1939 he became Ch ef of Planning and Progress, a position he held for about two years before taking over Planning Records Department. Later he joined Production Control Department, now under W. J. Beeton.

Mr. Stocker was a keen snooker player and at one time represented the Club in the Pretyman Competitions. He was hon. secretary for the Essex County Sports Meeting, and at cricket his leg glides will long be remembered by his team-mates.

Last June Mr. Stocker went into hospital for two major operations, and has been absent for most of the year. We offer him our best wishes for a good recovery.

*E. E. Collis*

T. Philips, under-foreman of the Tool Room, recently retired after twenty-three years of service. He joined the Company

*Mr. and Mrs. May*

*Mr. and Mrs. Smith*

with some years of engineering experience already behind him, and has remained in the Tool Room all the time. On leaving, his friends there and in Tool Designs presented him with an inscribed gold watch. Tom is a keen bowls player, remains an honorary member of the Bowls Section and continues to play for the Company.

J. H. Baker, Gatekeeper, joined the Company on 4 October 1940, and retired on 9 April 1951 at the age of sixty-five.

## MARRIAGES

On 17 April at Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, between Mr. Derek Brewer of Design and Development Division and Miss Joan Moden. Mr. Brewer's friends presented a biscuit barrel and set of fish knives

On 24 March at Kelvedon Parish Church, between Mr. Craik, and Miss E. Parker of the Winding Shop.

On 24 March at Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, between Mr. A. May, and Miss J. Drury of the Winding Shop.

On 24 March at All Saints' Church, Feering, between Mr. P. Mead, and Miss C. Alston of the Winding Shop.

On 12 May at Holy Trinity Church, Pleshey, between Mr. Lionel Smith and Miss Nancy Gilbert of Marine Accounts. The bride wore white moiré taffeta and carried dark red roses. About sixty people attended the reception, among whom were many friends from the Company, who had presented a dinner service and cutlery

On 24 March between Mr. E. Tindall, and Miss A. Brown of the Winding Shop.

## BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rogers, on the birth of their daughter Carol Alana, a sister for Alan. Mr. Rogers is a draughtsman in the Centimetric Development Section at Writtle.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Williams on the birth of their daughter on 25 April. Mr. Williams is a member of the Services Equipment Division at Rivenhall.

## ILLNESS

P. F. Willoughby, who had to go into hospital just before Christmas for a serious operation, is now making good progress, and although he will not be out of hospital for some time, recent visitors from among his friends in Aerial Design and System Planning Group say that he is much improved and looks forward to a complete recovery. We join with them in sending him our good wishes.

## OBITUARY

We regret to announce the following deaths:

S. Garwood died on 15 April at the age of seventy-one.

"Dick" Garwood had been a labourer in the Carpenters' Shop for thirty-two years before his retirement in 1946. J. F. Shipman, Foreman, O.1 Section, W. A. Taylor, and J. Hefford, both former Foremen of 0.1 Section, and A. Hills, attended the funeral, held at Holy Trinity Church, and other friends in the Works sent a wreath.

G. Smith, a Marconi House Cleaner, died on 23 April at the age of fifty-five. He joined the Company in July 1934.

# *Fifty Years Ago*

"*Liverpool Mercury*", 21 *June* 1901

Abundant evidence has lately appeared in our columns of the marvellous results of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy; but we are, probably, far from having yet achieved finality in the transmission of electric waves without intervening wires. It has been recognised from the first that the earth was a medium which could be used as an alternative to air. During the siege of Ladysmith Principal Oliver Lodge suggested a plan by which messages could be sent to the beleaguered garrison through the ground, and if our officers had the [illegible] got their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

*That a bicycle has no reason to envy a tree the nest of robins in its hair is proven by this picture of Carl Jameson's saddlebag*

## THE PERSISTENT ROBIN

It is late April and Carl Jameson is taking his bicycle from the rack when what does he notice but grass in his saddle bag, something to which he is in no way partial, so he removes it, but what does he notice the next day but grass in his saddle bag which also he removes, and on the third day, grass. By which time he is muttering more than somewhat until, on the fourth day he displays considerable cunning and places his bicycle in another and distant part of the rack but still grass in his saddle bag.

It is now very late April with the moon in Aries and Carl Jameson is figuring that he is being followed by a robin redbreast which fact is proved incontrovertibly by the accompanying photograph taken by our nature man, Flash Carter, who, with touching sentiment, is not allowing any disturbance of the nest until the robin redbreast is in a position to negotiate the copyright of the hatching. Meanwhile it is May and Carl Jameson is getting footsore. Very.

## LOYAL LADIES

Mrs. Kath Weaver has just topped ten years in the assembly department while her sister, Mrs. Dorothy Bateson, comes second with nine years' service. Such long-term service indicates contentment and contributes more than anything else to that family feeling which makes a factory tick. Bill Richards is justifiably proud of Kath and Dorothy and wonders if any other department can compete with Assembly in the matter of years of service per man and woman-power.

## JUNE BRIDES

Raymond Smith (Service) to Margaret Lee at St. Matthew's, Luton, 30 June.

Stella Norreys (Accounts) to Gerald Randall at Christ's Church, St. Albans, Saturday, 12 June.

Nona Kane (Goods Inwards) to Douglas Clapham at St. Paul's, St. Albans, 12 June.

## BABIES

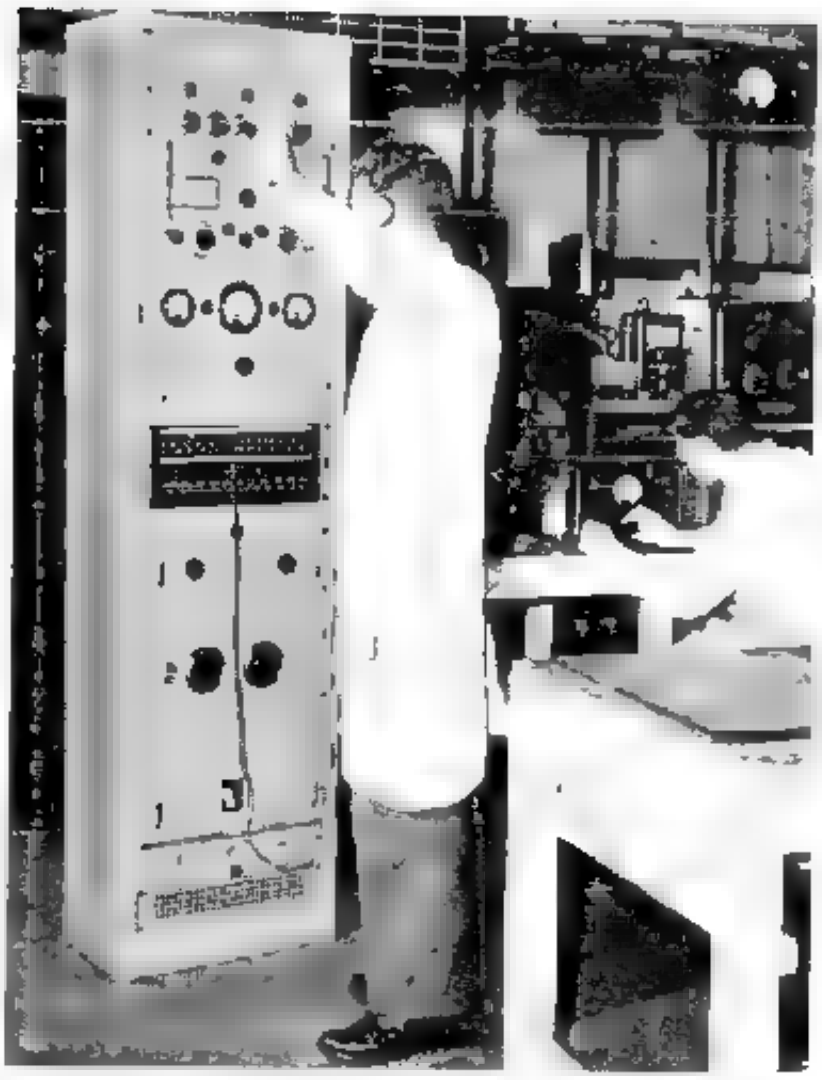
For Bill Gascoine (Service) and his wife, a girl, Susan Ann, born 22 April, weight 7 lb. 6 ozs. For D. W. Hammond (X-ray Planning) and his wife, a boy, Peter, born 25 April, weight 6 lb. 2 ozs.

## VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Alan French, in charge of the Model Shop, has worked on models, prototypes, and experimental equipment ever since his first connection with Marconi at the Sterling

*Alan French*

Telephone Company where he started work in 1923. Originally intended for the fire brigade—his father was a superintendent—Alan, on leaving Millwall Grammar School, decided instead to go to the Dogs (Isle of) where he studied draughtsmanship in civil engineering. Here a depression intervened and he transferred to Gravesend Sea School, learned wireless operating and went to sea as a Junior Officer in the Royal Mail Line. In Rio de Janeiro somebody offered him a job checking meat cargo and although tempted he gave way to his father's request to "come home, Alan boy" and so to Sterling. After leaving the Sterling factory he worked for some time in the recording studios of Columbia Graphophone where he came to know personally such well-remembered folk as Layton and Johnstone and Elsie Carlisle. Alan joined E. K. Cole at Southend in February 1932, left in February 1936 to go to the Research Department of E.M.I.; then rejoined E. K. Cole again in February 1939—since when he has always avoided Februaries. Hobby: gardening



*John Lithgoe making final tests on a Transmission Monitor destined for the Egyptian Broadcasting Corporation*

## 124 M.P.H. ON TWO WHEELS

Most factories have their own suicide squads and Longacres is no exception. John Carter of Service, for instance, has clocked 124 m.p.h. on his "Tiger 100" motor-bike. He is well known in short circuit events on road and grass tracks in Hertfordshire.

## BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD

"Der—was that me?" murmurs the Mortimer Snerd of the dance hall while his partner counts her feet, hopefully. Not so with many of our dancers at Longacres who take their art seriously. Bob Calthorpe, for instance, is one of several men who have passed the examinations set by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, gaining medals, bronze, silver, and gold in a three-year course.

## SWIPE ME!

Ernest Hall, a keen member of the chess section of the S. and S. Club has been in the habit of using his own chess set and leaving it between whiles in the canteen. Recently he decided to take the set home only to be accused a day or so later of "knocking it off". Although, naturally, a little hurt, Ernest took the opportunity to enrol a new member in the section.

## THOMPSON TAPESTRY

A colourful tapestry firescreen being admired in the Service Department a few weeks ago was the work of W. Thompson of that department who learned tapestry work and embroidery when recovering from a war wound at the age of sixteen in 1917. He left school at eleven and joined up in the first world war at fourteen! Embroidery is by no means his only hobby for wood carving, brick laying, and model engineering all come within the interests of this man who started his career as a coal miner, spent twenty years in the Metropolitan Police Force, a sergeant at Southgate part of the time, started his own model engineering business, went to Australia to settle down and came back to join M.I. in 1948. He has made model railways for Prince Bira, the Siamese racing motorist, and Lord Brabazon. Six feet one inch tall, he is, nevertheless, shorter than any of his three sons.

## FREDDIE LLOYD, B.E.M.

Too strong to retire is what they told Freddie Lloyd, our boiler man, after finishing fifty years at sea in 1945. So he started work with M.I. at High Wycombe. Freddie,

*Freddie Lloyd*

as engineer storekeeper, spent twenty-one of that fifty years in the same ship, the *Grand Tally Castle*, of the Union Castle Line: he knew every nail, rat and smell of that ship and no matter where in the world he was, home was never farther away than the dockside. And in 1943, when Freddie was fighting his second war—or was it the third?—they gave him the British Empire Medal. He has been wrecked twice, once in the *Newark Castle* at Cape Dumford off East Africa in 1908, and once in the *Lord Nelson* at High Wycombe in 1946. We asked him what it felt like to be shovelling coke under boilers after fifty years on the vast oceans, and he said that if he'd known before that there were such jobs as this, he wouldn't have stayed fifty years on the vast oceans.

## APPRENTICE DANCE

Saturday, 21 April, the recently formed Apprentice Section of the Club presented a dance in the canteen. Apprentices organised, sold tickets, and prepared the hall on the night; Fred Maycock did an excellent job as M.C. During the evening we had the pleasure of entertaining L. R. Nicolson, secretary of the apprentice committee, G. H. Scott, Personnel Manager, C. Stanier, Company Secretary, and photographer R. Carter, who took the accompanying photograph. We are grateful to the following for their assistance with catering, ticket collection, and cloakroom: S. Barker, G. Lucas, F. Havill, L. Brooks, C. Woodward, and their wives; also L. Jukes, F. Balding, and chef H. Squires.

## HEIFITZ MUSIC YOU WANT

The grand piano, hiding its blight under a bushel (of potatoes) for years, has come into

*M.I. Dance Band. F. Maycock, piano. Pat Wollaston at the microphone; R. Plomley, alto saxophone; John Parkyn, bull fiddle; and G. Carter, trumpet*

*S. Barker (left), L. R. Nicolson (centre) and C. Stanier (right) with a group of apprentices at the Apprentice Dance*

its own at last with the formation of an M.I. dance band. With John Parkyn, F. Maycock, and K. Kidman in the rhythm section on bull-fiddle, piano, and drums respectively, and a front line comprising R. Plomley, alto sax, G. Carter, trumpet, and Ken Sheed, violin, the band held its first practice Wednesday evening, 3 May. Pat Wollaston, forgetting the mail for a time, vocalised. This band is not necessarily the answer to the committee's dance problems, but is the beginning of a musical section of the club where brows high and low can work out their Menuhin or Beiderbecke complexes in tolerant company with instrument purchase facilities thrown in.

## TYRED?

Men intent on exchanging fat for muscle may be interested in Jackie Grimes' suggestion that a physical training section of the Sports Club should be formed. Jackie himself is more than willing to organise such a project and in our opinion is the right man for the job. Winning the Amateur Featherweight Boxing Championship of Great Britain 1940 I, Jackie, now an honorary member of the Barnet and St. Pancras B.C., has had 150 fights and collected forty-eight cups, a number of pewter pots, clocks, canteen of cutlery and thirty-one medals. To gain the championship he fought eight eliminating bouts: three on the final night!

*Jackie Grimes with some of his trophies*

## NOT UNTIL AFTER SIX O'CLOCK

In this first of what we hope will prove an interesting series portraying pastimes of factory folk, we follow Mrs. Edna Markland of Electro-Medical and X-ray Service to her home in Holly Lane, St. Albans. Here, by the fireside—husband Ken of Service has gone out for more coal—she embroiders tablecloths, cushion covers, and what-nots of no mean quality, taking the hem-stitching in her stride. All you need to produce the delightful patterns shown in the photograph is a quantity of old bleached Irish linen and Clark's Stranded Silks—or would you rather get the coal?

*Mrs. Edna Markland*

## Personalities No. 11

# A. R. TAYLOR, X-Ray Division

A. R. "Mike" Taylor joined the company at St. Albans in 1940 as foreman of the Model Shop, after spending seven years in a similar capacity with Murphy Radio. Members of the factory Home Guard Unit remember him as their O.C. when he shaped some unlikely material into quite a presentable and potentially efficient platoon. Mike is the only member of the Company who has had his face walked on by a mule in Frutillo, Colombia, South America. He was in charge of the maintenance section of an Aerial Ropeway at the time, transporting goods over the mountains to the coffee growing district, and coffee back to the coast. While there he travelled to Colon on the Panama Canal to marry his school teacher fiancee who had gone out from England with her father. His daughter was born in Colombia and she is now in her last year as medical student at the Royal Free Hospital.

Mike's most memorable incident is the mule kick in Frutillo, for not until ten years afterwards did he feel the effect and then had to undergo an operation for the removal of a piece of cheek bone.

As Captain of the Acoy (St. Albans) Rifle Club, descendant of the old "A" Home Guard Company, he helps to keep alive the interest in shooting fostered during the "state of emergency". Obliquely he reminds us that the Home Guard has never been disbanded, but only stood down. Hobbies: gardening and bridge.

*People we work with—*

# Geoffrey Hughes

BY OUR ROVING CORRESPONDENT

THE SMALL hotel room was filled with smoke. Some thirty men were sitting around—most of them on the floor—and nearly all of them had pipe or cigarette going.

In the centre was a young man seated tailor fashion. Without reference he gave a rapid string of instructions; instructions which eventually produced one of the finest films yet made of a motor-cycle race.

Geoffrey Hughes had undertaken the job of filming, in its entirety, the 1950 Senior Tourist Trophy race around the 35-mile circuit of the Isle of Man.

To do the job he had ten camera crews and, in order to co-ordinate this "army" of technicians, so widely dispersed, he did something new and directed his film by wireless.

Doing something new is nothing new to Geoffrey; he just does it.

When the meeting was over he came across to me.

"Sorry to keep you. I suppose you'd like to see the course. Pick your own section. . . ." (I was photographing the walkie-talkie in action) . . . "I have a car outside. I'll take you round."

That's just how this film director acts and talks. And he thinks even quicker.

Some weeks ago Geoffrey visited the Works and described the making of this particular film to an enthusiastic audience in the Club.

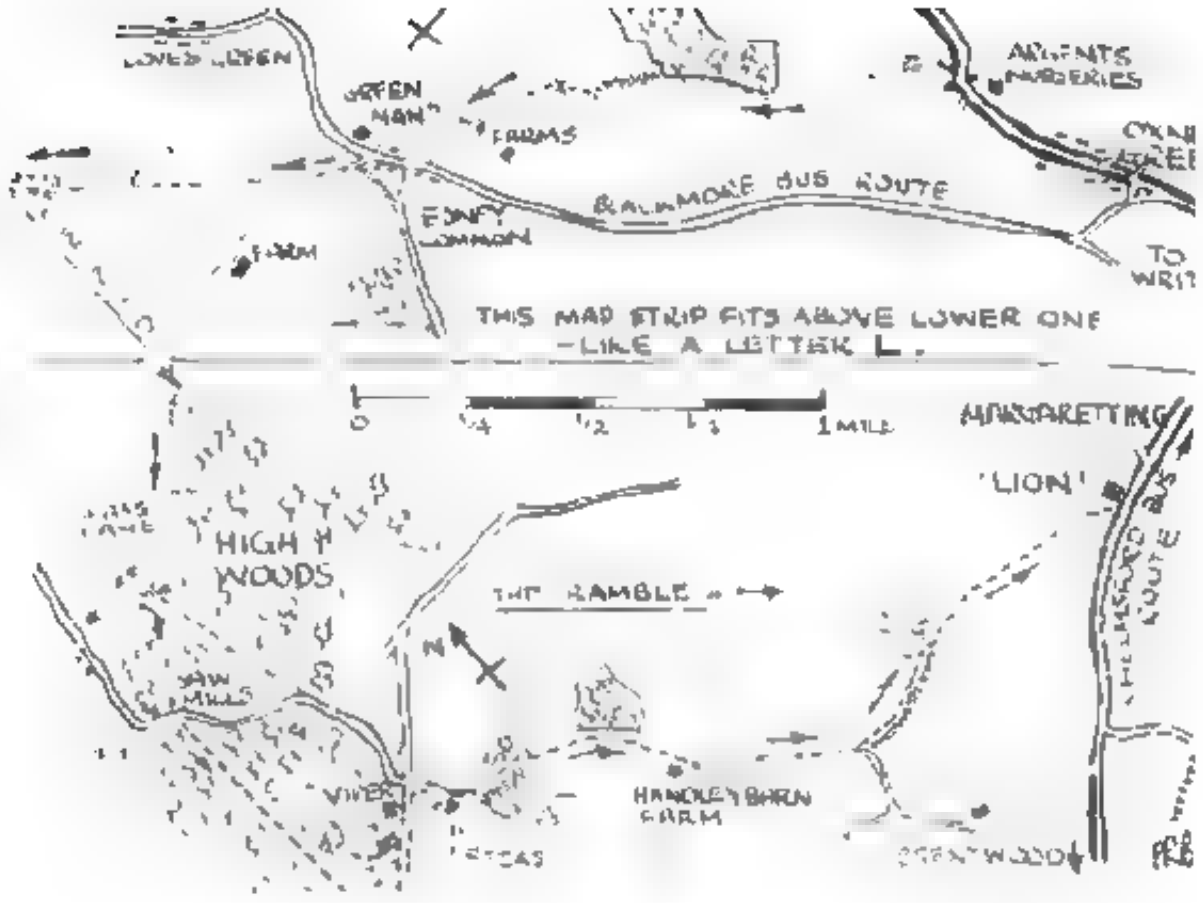
And what a thrilling film it is. I can only think of one thing that has thrilled me more—letting Geoffrey Hughes drive me round the T.T. course.

*Geoffrey Hughes (right), of the Shell Film Unit, with Dusty Miller*

# A COUNTRY RAMBLE

by

PHIL BERKELEY




## *Edney Common and Oxney Green*

Essex was once—so the historians tell us—covered by dense woodland, and in a few places in the county this is still true. After Danbury perhaps the most attractive area near Chelmsford is around Highwood and Hill Green, and this ramble gives two methods of approach by bus. I must confess that the last time I walked over this route it was raining in torrents and the paths had become rivers, but the glades are very lovely in the summer time.

From Argent's Nurseries, just past Oxney Green on the Ongar bus route, a track crosses the meadow to join a brook and follows it to a small wood which it skirts. Walking by the hedge past this we cross a narrow strip of field by two stiles and follow the hedge around to the left, passing a farmhouse and joining the Edney Common Road near the "Green Man". The Blackmore bus comes along this road, and the walk could well be started from here.

Almost opposite the pub a farm lane leads to Writtlepark and a few yards up on the right we find a fingerpost pointing out our path branching off diagonally across the field. Keep straight on in this direction and after skirting three or four fields we enter a large wood by an overgrown lane. This opens out into a grassy "green lane" and takes us down to a few cottages. Turn left over a wee bridge past a cottage and up into the wood by a bridle path. A whole maze of tracks run through these woods, and it is easy to get lost, but by taking the first track on the right you will come out by a sawmill and on to the road again.

To the left and opposite, a well-trodden footpath enters the second area of woodland, and soon opens out into a wide straight track. Keep to the left after crossing the stream (can anyone explain the origin of those earth walls in this and many other Essex woods?) and up through an area—probably cleared by now—on to the Mill Green road. To the left is the "Viper" with draught cider that is fatal to a walker's knees, or opposite, a sandy road leading to a tea place.

Turning left past the first cottage down here we enter another small wood, with a track passing between the hollows of old tree roots, and leave the wood by a stile with a wire fence to the left of it, with Handleybarn Farm below us, complete with TV aerial. From the farm follow their gravelled road until it turns off right and a fingerpost indicates our path, following a stream and entering what is very aptly called Bushey Wood. Don't take the obvious path but keep to the right near the stream which will lead you right down to the Margaretting "Lion" and a bus for Chelmsford or Brentwood. For the energetic there is a bridleway to Galleywood approached by the path opposite, but you need to be well shod in the wet weather!

# LONGACRES LANDMARK

Getting acquainted with Hill End water tower, our giant neighbour which stands astride the factory marking its location from as far afield as Sleepy Hyde and Coleman's Green.

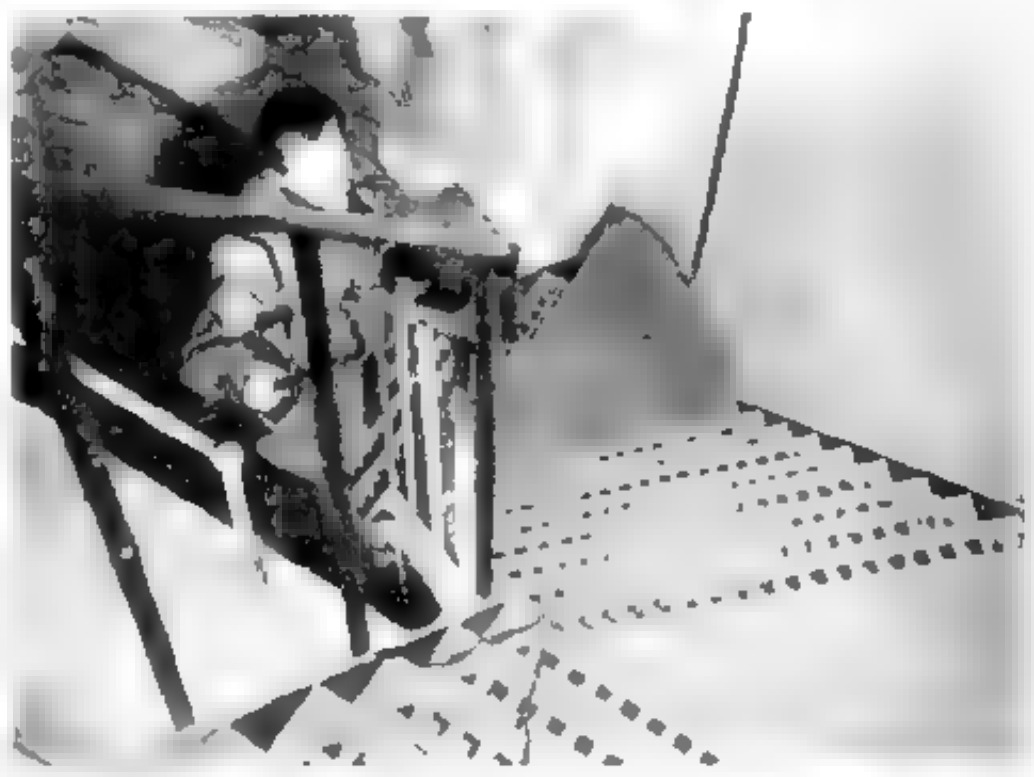
Approaching the factory from Hatfield Road, the water tower seems to be a part of the Works. In fact it stands well beyond the factory, across the railway and within the grounds of Hill End Hospital.

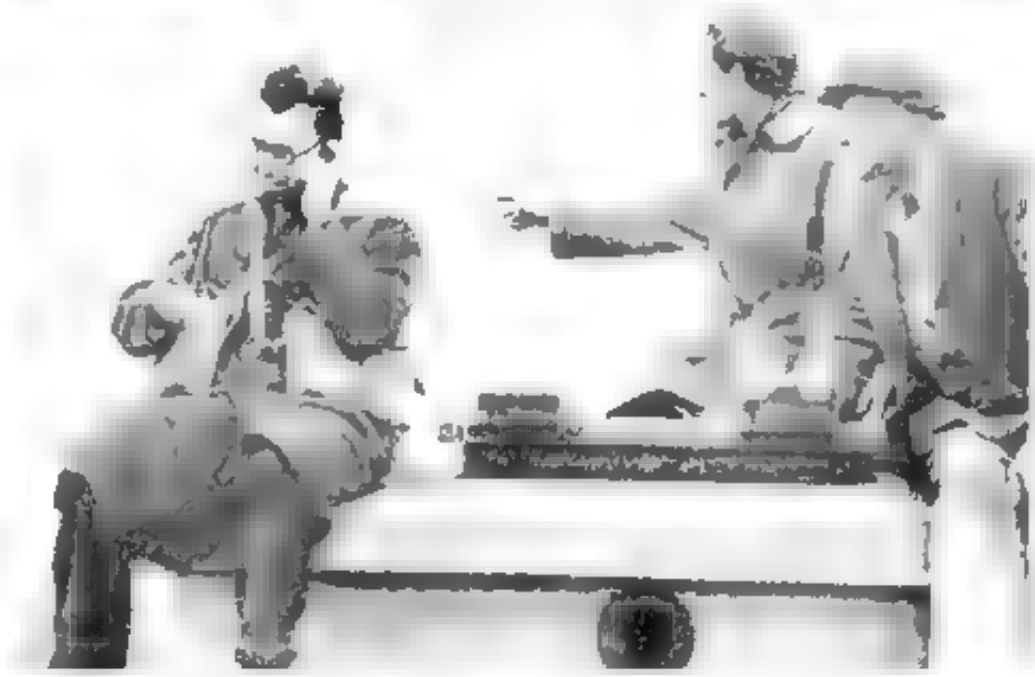
The tank, 120 feet up, holds 180,000 gallons of water and supplies two nearby hospitals, Tyttenhanger, and several other villages.

The spiral staircase leading assistant photographer Maxwell to the top of the tower stops at the base of the tank and is replaced by a series of narrow iron rungs, in comparison with which the staircase was a knockover. Minutes later we were standing on the topmost floor, literally surrounded by water.

Publicity Manager E. D. Hart followed Marconi tradition by keeping in touch with the factory through a walkie-talkie and ensuring that no passing vehicles mar the "aerial" photograph of the factory which Ron Carter had for a very long time been anxious to take. Max admired the scenery, but to the hardened workman's disgust kept his feet safely indoors.

Now we know how we look to the tower.





# Marconi Athletic and Social Club

## SPORTS DAY AND GALA

The annual sports day and gala of the M.A.S.C. is being held on 7 July. The various events are on the same lines as last year, with the Carnival procession, Fire Brigade Display, Children's Fancy Dress Parade, Athletics, etc., as well as an exhibition of Marconi equipment. All Marconi employees and their families are welcomed, and more details are given on the green posters now up on the notice boards. Inquiries should be made to A. J. Impey, Club Secretary, Room 783.

A committee has been formed to run a flower and vegetable show as part of the Sports Day, and anyone interested, who has not yet been approached for entries, is invited to contact R. Turner, Progress Department, the Show Secretary.

## CRICKET

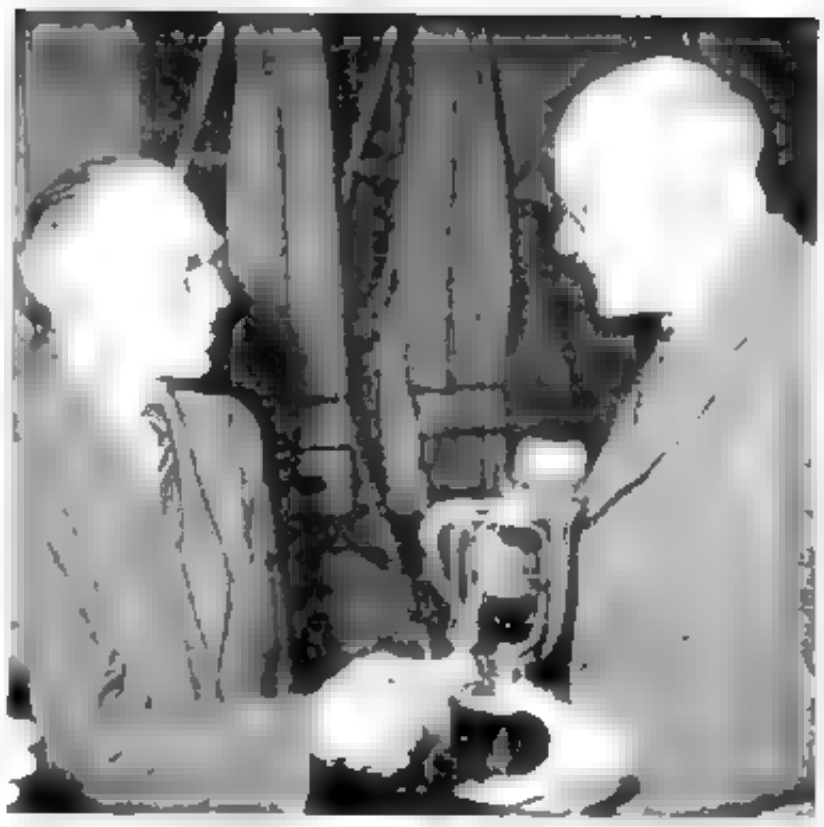
The bad weather which has been dogging all sport for months made no exception for cricket, and our two opening matches on 5 May had to be cancelled. The following day, however, we entertained Davey, Paxman's (Colchester) and won by 102 to eighty-seven. In this game two newcomers, M. Stothard and J. Newland, opened the innings well with thirty-two and thirteen, and Dick Whittaker made a steady twenty-eight not out. Paxman's promising young spin bowler, Offord, took seven wickets for twenty-eight. The Works attacked steadily

*The Sunday Eleven come out to open the 1951 season with the match against Davey, Paxman's*

with seven bowlers to draw on, of whom May and Whittaker finished with the best figures of five for thirty-one and three for twenty.

Fixtures in the offing include Romford Brewery, Little Baddow, Courtaulds, Brittanic Lodge—and on 9 June the annual battle against Ernest Turner's, first and second elevens, at Waterhouse Lane. And let's hope we beat these friends from High Wycombe this time!

We have an ambitious programme of evening Interdepartmental Competition matches, no fewer than seventeen teams representing many Sections and Departments. Waterhouse Lane and the Instrument Shop are the present holders of the Shield, and we look forward to a season of keen sporting games.



*A. J. Impey, M.A.S.C. Secretary, presents the Waite Cup to J. B. Miller at the Angling Society's prizegiving*

## ANGLING

Thirty-one members attended our last outing to Southwold on 7 April. We had rain on the way there, but most of the day was sunny with a fairly strong wind. The competition itself lasted from 8.30 a.m. until 1 p.m., after which it was "free for all", including the thunderstorm which struck us soon after 5 o'clock. The winners were: H. Sweeting, 2 lb. 9 oz. 6 dr.; G. Smith, 1 lb. 1 oz. 6 dr.; E. Biglin, 15 oz. 8 dr.; G. Watling, 13 oz. 6 dr.

The annual general meeting was held on 24 April, thirty-three members being present. The business of the meeting was carried through in the usual efficient manner but the committee would like to see more anglers taking a greater interest in the business affairs of the Society. See what you can do about it next year!

A new Bye-law was passed, and several amendments to those already in existence. At the request of the old committee, who felt that "new blood" might be useful on the committee, no *en bloc* re-elections were made and a secret vote was taken, when six new members were elected for this season.

We were glad to welcome A. J. Impey, General Secretary of the Club, to our meeting. He kindly undertook to present the prizes, and expressed his pleasure at being present, saying that it had greatly increased his knowledge of angling.

The fixture lists for 1951-2 are now with the printer, and should be in your hands at about the time this issue of the magazine appears.

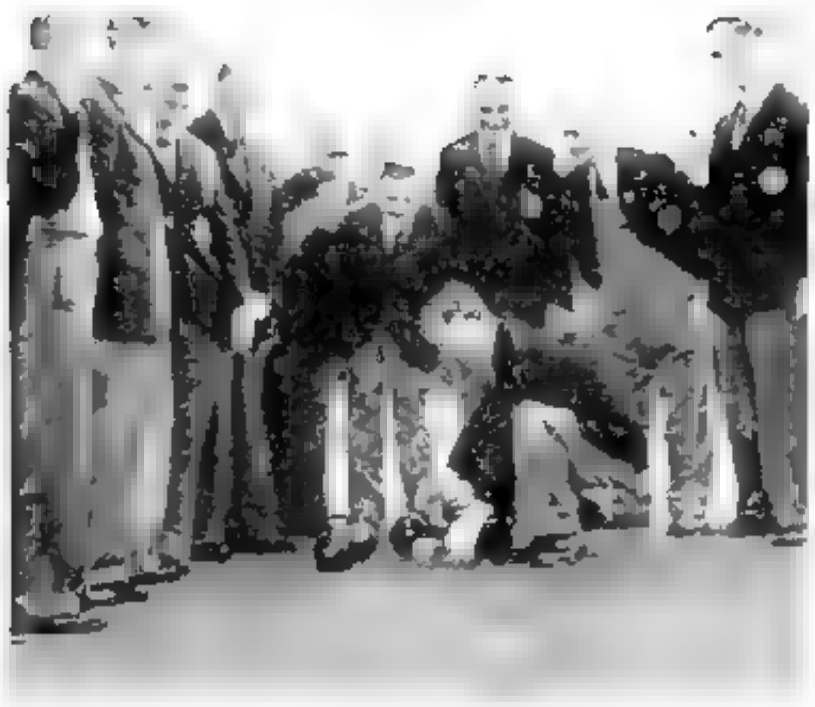
The new season will open with a Club competition on 16 June, to be fished on home waters, so you'd better give your tackle the "once over" to make sure it will hold a good fish if it does happen to take a fancy to your particular piece of bait! We all hope this winter's floods will have done the river a great deal of good and we look forward to better fishing.

## GOLF

The Marconi Golfing Society, under the Captaincy of H. C. Van de Velde, held its first meeting on Saturday, 7 April, at the Chelmsford Golf Club.

Twenty members turned out for this meeting, and everyone enjoyed a good afternoon's golf. The four ball better ball Stapleford for a prize put up by the captain proved a very good fight, and F. C. Lunnon and R. Dawson deserved their win with thirty points. Runners-up were E. C. Bindloss and F. McNuff and F. Jones and H. J Elmes, with twenty-nine points.

After the match P. B. Lake, vice-captain of the Chelmsford Golf Club, welcomed



*The match against Stock. Watching Bert Amies measuring the woods are (left to right) J. Campbell, F. Bew, L. Woodward, Capt. P. Howlett, T. Harris, C. Sanderson, G. Judd, C. Donovan, V. Angier, and W. Snell*

members of the M.G.S. to the Chelmsford Club, and wished the Society every success.

In their first match against the Borough Engineers of Chelmsford, Marconi's won by 5½ to 4½ on the day's play over thirty-six holes, four ball better ball match. The score was: Morning round, Marconi's 4, Borough Engineers 1; afternoon round, Marconi's ½, Borough Engineers 3½.

To all members remember this season K.Y.H.D.!

## BOWLS

The season opened on 28 April with the President's v. Captain's match. Four complete rinks turned out to brave the cold weather, but in the end we had to give it up and leave the match unfinished with the President's team leading by a few shots. At the tea interval, Captain P. Howlett and Hon. Secretary Bert Amies thanked the members for their valuable help in preparing the Green and decorating the Pavilion.

The match at Stock on 5 May resulted in a win for us, 55 –41. This game is traditional, as twenty-nine years ago Marconi's played Stock on the opening day of their own Bowling Green, and it became an annual event.

## TENNIS

The dance to celebrate the opening of the season was a huge success. The much coveted first prize in the raffle, a bottle of Scotch Whisky, was kindly presented to the Club by R. Telford, to whom we are all very grateful—especially the lucky man who won it!

The Club has a very full fixture list and teams have been entered in both Leagues of the Chelmsford Federation.

## BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

The section has just completed a very successful and enthusiastic season, with last year's champions, Instrument Shop No. 1,

*Phil Hutchinson, winner of the Individual Snooker Championship*

repeating their win. Captained by Eric Ainsworth, they showed us good all-round play throughout the season.

The highest break of twenty-eight at snooker by Charlie Buddle, Marine Accounts, the 1949-50 Sportsman of the Year, who plays the game under his handicap of one arm, was a fine performance. The forty-two break at billiards by Tom Turner (Stores No. 2) was also a good effort, and Ernie Gilder, Fred (Pinky) Matthews, Taffy Evans, Frank Gresty, Brian Kendon, and Wally Stevenson have all lived up to their reputations for steady play.

The Individual Billiard Championship still eludes Ernie Gilder, who was again runner-up, beaten by Ken ("Nervy") Embley, a fellow "Instrumentalist". The Individual Snooker Championship went to Phil Hutchinson, with E. Hawkins runner-up

The Pretyman Cup players will be meeting each other every Wednesday evening, 6.30–10 p.m., at the Club to keep up their form for next season, when we hope they will keep the name of Marconi's flying high.

*Final League Positions*

| *Team* | *P.* | *Su P.* | *Bl P* | *Tl* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Instrument Shop 1 ..... | 13 | 23 | 35 | 58 |
| Stores Div. 1 ..... ..... | 13 | 29 | 25 | 54 |
| Waterhouse Lane ..... | 13 | 18 | 36 | 54 |
| Progress and Jobbing ..... | 13 | 29 | 20 | 49 |
| Process Planning ..... | 13 | 20 | 29 | 49 |
| Tool Room ..... | 13 | 21 | 21 | 42 |
| Mounting Shop and Power House ..... | 13 | 18 | 20 | 38 |
| Stores Div. 2 ..... | 13 | 15 | 21 | 36 |
| Marine Accounts ..... | 13 | 19 | 14 | 33 |
| Instrument Shop 2 ..... | 13 | 14 | 14 | 28 |
| Purchasing Div..... | 13 | 19 | 9 | 28 |
| Management ..... | 13 | 15 | 12 | 27 |
| Development Div. ..... | 13 | 20 | 7 | 27 |
| Packing and Transport ..... | 13 | 13 | 10 | 23 |

*Winners of League and Shield:* Instrumen. Shop No. 1.

*Winners of Billiards*, Waterhouse Lane

*Winners of Snooker:* Progress and Jobbing

*Highest break at Snooker:* C. Buddle (28).

*Highest break at Billiards:* T. Turner (42)

*Winner of Individual Snooker Championship* P. Hutchinson (runner-up, E. Hawkins).

*Winner of Individual Billiards Championship* K. Embley (runner-up, E. Gilder)

## HOCKEY

On 7 April Marconi's played the Mid-Essex Technical College and beat them 2—1. The College started with one man short, but as the referee did not turn up, one of the Marconi players took over this task to even up the sides.

In the first half the College had the better of the play and scored just before the interval. In the second half a volunteer referee enabled Marconi's to field their full team and give them the upper hand. The pitch was too soft for accurate play, but it was a good struggle. Marconi's equalised through Carson and shortly after Clough netted for the Works but was ruled to have given "sticks". Agar then scored the winning goal for Marconi's.

The last game of the season, against Old Southendians on 14 April, was lost 2—0, but the two sides were well matched in spite of the score.

Ray Cox in goal had a splendid game and stopped many fine shots although the second goal was scored when he stepped over quite a weak shot. He was evidently expecting another hard hit from short range.

Summing up the season's results, the Marconi side won eight games, lost six, and drew two. Eight games were cancelled due to impossible weather conditions.

*Bill Lang, Secretary of the Table Tennis Section*

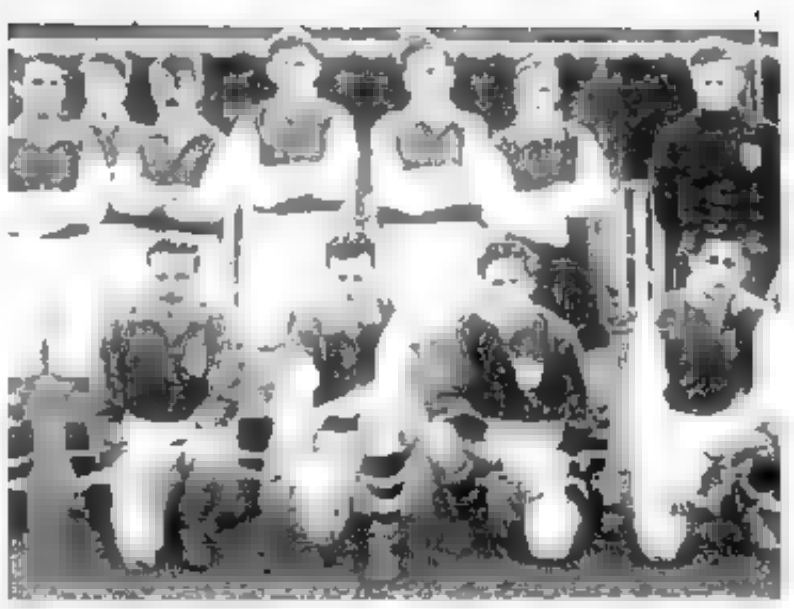
## DARTS AT BADDOW

Friday, 13 April, proved unlucky for the Baddow team, as that evening they were beaten 6—4 by the Skating Rink. Alec Snelling had the highest score for Baddow, 120, and Jim Seddon followed with 111. Peter Hopkins had the best average, 52.2.

The season was rounded off the following week with the Individual Championships. After a keen struggle, R. Clark beat W Bush 2—1 and thus became the first winner of the Challenge Tankard. H. Bates (captain) won the Pairs Contest with N. Ling, who also distinguished himself by having the highest score in the individual contest, with 124.

## BADMINTON

The M.A.S.C. Secretary has high hopes of being able to get playing facilities for the Badminton Section in January 1952, but if anyone knows of a hall available before then Miss P Payne, Hon. Secretary, will be very glad to hear of it.



*The 2nd XI Football Team. (back row, left to right) S. Collicott, A. Martin, F. Lake, D. Parkhurst, R. Moore, J. Durey, R. Cave; (front row) R. Cushing, C. Charles, D. Bundy, A. Poulton*

# St. Albans Social and Sports Club

## FRANK LLOYD'S TENNIS TOPICS

At the time of going to press the result of our match with Redbourn is not available. Other matches in June are as follows:

9 June (at home), Garden Club T.C.

11 June (6.45 p.m. at Verulamium), St. Michael's T.C.

23 June (at home), Campfield T.C.

We have kept an open date on 30 June to enable members to enter the Ballito Tournament, on account of the good quality of the stockings given as prizes. Now that the draw for the Marcont Tournaments has taken place we hope that members will make an effort to play off as quickly as possible. The question of umpires in the early rounds is left to the people concerned but the ruling is that there should be an umpire present.

Membership We have a few new members this season, but surely there must be, hidden away somewhere, a large number of people who play tennis. Get your racquets out of the top of the wardrobe and come along to the courts. We can take many more members yet. If you don't play yourself, then give your wife or husband a chance. We'll be glad to see them!

## FENCING

The aims of the new Fencing section of the club as discussed at a preliminary meeting and demonstration Thursday evening, 3 May, are: To practice the art of foil fencing and at some later date to include sabre and epée, matches with other clubs will be arranged when members have acquired experience. The services of an expert amateur swordsman, Mr. Tony Vick, have been obtained and he will give both class and individual coaching. Four sets of equipment are being supplied by the club and members will be expected to pay for broken blades and eventually to purchase their own equipment, the club is prepared to help in this matter by arranging weekly payments. Officers elected: Ken Sheed, organiser, Patricia Wollaston, treasurer, Les Lukes, Vincent Gregory and A. Beale, committee members. The first practice took place 6–10 p.m., Thursday, 17 May, with instruction from 7.30 till 9. Enrolment in this section will doubtless be influenced by the fact that from 7.30 till 9 p.m. the canteen will be shared on Thursday evenings with the Ladies' Physical Culture Class.

*N. A. Callear in action in the match against Redbourn C.C., 6 May*

*Opening pair, A. Puckrin and C. Jameson, in the same match*

## LEN BROOKES ON CRICKET

We started the willow season with a vote of thanks to W. Richards who has relinquished his position as section organiser after ten years' service. Ron Archer takes over as organiser with yours humbly assisting. At a meeting held Wednesday, 25 April, it was agreed that N. A. Callear would be captain for the season and Carl Jameson vice-captain.

Our first game of the season against

*Fencing practice. Pat Wollaston and Ken Sheed*

Redbourn on 6 May was one we shall try to forget as far as batting is concerned. The bowling was very much on top on both sides. Redbourn, batting first, scored fifty, our skipper, N. A. Callear, taking five for twenty-three runs and Tom Roche three for eighteen runs.

At this stage we thought the game was "in the bag", but our batting failed hopelessly, except for Callear's thirteen, and we finished all out for thirty-one, knowing more than ever that practice is essential.

## BRIDGE

A bridge section has recently been formed with a view to taking part in the local Bridge League Competition, the next session of which commences October 1951. In the intervening months friendly games will be arranged, the first of which took place Wednesday, 25 April, when three pairs visiting the Electrical Apparatus Co. Ltd., took part in a duplicate competition with a gratifying result. J. Stratford and his wife were first in the north-south half and A. R. Taylor and E. H. Day were second in the east-west. E. H. Day, Purchasing, is organising the section and inquiries should be addressed to him.

*FROM THE SECRETARY*

## CUTTING YE RUG

Olde Tyme dancing classes started in the canteen Tuesday, 1 May, under the direction of Mr. J. Rance, A.B.A.T.D. The section has been organised by A. Mayger, who hopes that he will get sufficient support to justify weekly classes.

Sidney Thompson and his 14-piece Old Tyme Orchestra of B.B.C. fame will visit the Longacres factory on Friday 29 June. Mr. Thompson and his wife will act as Masters of Ceremony. Dressing room accommodation will be provided in the factory.

## DARTS

The darts team played and beat the Double Six Club at *The Camp* Friday, 20 April. More friendly matches are being arranged and it is hoped that our own dart boards will be in the canteen by the time this is printed.

*G. Moran (Machine Shop) takes aim in a match organised by the newly formed darts section of the club*

## R.C.N. APPEAL DANCE

In response to a suggestion from Sister Thyer a dance was held 19 May in support of the Royal College of Nursing National Appeal Fund. At a gala dance in the canteen on 5 May Frank Harwood of the Machine Shop brought his well-known nine-piece semi-pro band along and the occasion was a terrific success. Another olde tyme dance took place Friday, 11 May.

## TO THE OPERA

Coach outings continue to be popular. Trips to *Faust* and *Tosca* at Sadler's Wells were both well patronised and thoroughly enjoyed. There was also a club outing to see the Cup Final at Wembley. The club chairman, S. Barker, is at present arranging with M.W.T. for a mass visit by M.I. employees in September. Various inter-company matches are visualised and those who are not interested in sport will be shown round the Chelmsford works.

# Puzzles

*What is it?*

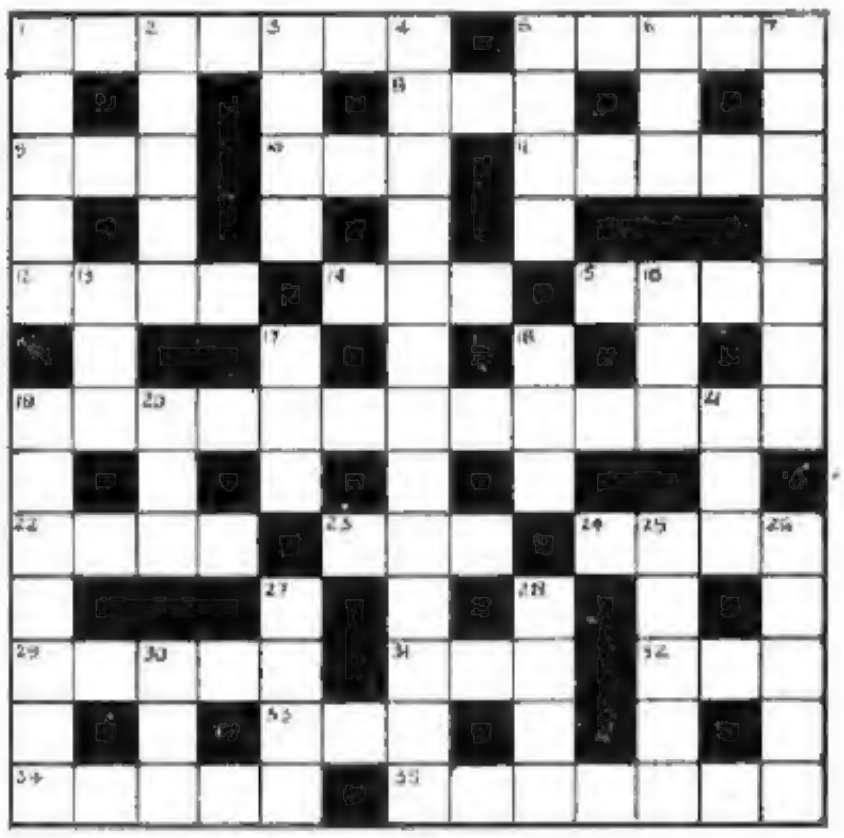
*Answers below*

## ACROSS

1. Might be a bridge, but usually isn't (7)
5. Soldiers should not lead revolts, so the units remain (5)
8. Found in a wide range oscillation (3)
9. "Include me . . ."—Sam Goldwyn (3)
10. Associated with waves (3)
11. Prize awarded to Marconi in 1909 (5)
12. Greek mythological character who made radar possible (4)
14. This kind of joint is best avoided (3)
15. An article in spirit is usually a good thing (4)
19. Familiar figure where heating is concerned (3, 5, 5)
22. Controlling device in the stream (4)
23. "Far and . . ., far and . . ., are the lands where the Jumblies live"—Edward Lear (3)
24. Information to be obtained from round a table (4)
29. To do with 27 (5)
31. Lives in 10 and may produce 5 across (3)
32. Current ingredient of jam puffs (3)
33. Used for covering wire (3)
34. Desirable in a direction finder and its designer (5)
35. Has two 22's (7)

## DOWN

1. Opportunity for observing phenomena (5)
2. Seldom omitted at the B.B.C. (5)
3. Seat of one of the five 34's (4)
4. "Rage, errant men" (anag.) but this may stop the oscillation (13)
5. Sounds useless, but often useful in a condenser (4)
6. Where some engineers work (3)
7. Not enough 15? (7)
13. Greek letter (3)
16. "The isle is full of noises, sounds, and sweet . . . s, that give delight and hurt not." *The Tempest* (3)
17. Large piece of timber useful in mathematics (3)
18. Another Greek letter (3)
19. "Sing Sal" (anag.), obviously they are modulated (7)
20. When a Roman came of age? (3)
21. A lot of 5 across (3)
25. French electrician who finished a year ago (5)
26. It seems that a little more than 32 would be (5)
27. School getting up and making itself heard (4)
28. What to do with your points (4)
30. Too much 15? (3)



Answers to puzzles:

Running up. Elderdown.

*Printed by Benham and Company Limited, Colchester, England*